FBIS DAILY REPORT

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ARAB LEAGUE SECRETARY RIYAD GRANTS INTERVIEW

LD121100Y Riyadh SNA in Arabic 0645 GMT 12 Jul 78 LD

[Text] Riyadh--Mahmud Riyad, secretary general of the Arab League, has stressed the need to convene the Arab summit conference and has stated that unless the Arab leaders meet, the situation will become serious and the future obscure. Mahmud Riyad said that the proposed Arab summit conference will concentrate on eliminating Arab differences and approving an Arab action plan. Mr Riyad expressed his optimism about the convening of this conference and pointed out that it will not be held before the month of Shawwal [mid-August to mid-September].

This came in a statement he made to AR-RIYADH, which was published today, in which he dealt with the Arab situation and the role played by the Arab League to marshal the Arab ranks. Riyad said that studies are being carried out on how to remove the obstacles which hold back joint Arab action, investments and intervention in all spheres. He also explained that another study is being carried out concerning the development of the league's machinery, which will end next month.

Regarding the recent Arab League Council decisions against the PDRY, Mr Riyad said that these decisions were unanimous and were the result of fear of acts of violence which could spread and be carried beyond Aden and were aimed at confronting the foreign elements which might be behind these actions. Mr Riyad stressed that the Arab nation needs practical organization in political, military and economic spheres in order to be able to protect any part of the Arab world. He explained that the Arab nation is experiencing one of its most serious phases, and organized action is needed to free the occupied Arab territories.

Regarding the amendment of the Arab League Charter, Mr Riyad said that the Arab League Charter is impractical and the Arab League is now preparing a study of how to eliminate the obstacles curtailing joint Arab action. Regarding the setting up of a judicial committee to settle Arab disputes and problems, the Arab League secretary general stressed the need to have an Arab ministerial committee which would convene when any Arab dispute cropped up, to investigate the disputed subject, to set up an Arab court envisaged in the League Charter and not yet implemented, and to form an Arab security force to be sent to any region in the Arab world where the need arises.

ARAB LEAGUE TO DISCUSS AID TO PALESTINIANS

LD062208Y Jidda 'UKAZ in Arabic 1 Jul 78 p 6 LD

[Excerpts] The Arab League General Secretariat has distributed a memo to the member states regarding financial estimates of the Unified Arab Funds for the Support of Palestinians Under Occupation.

During its March 1978 session the Arab League adopted a resolution to set up a committee consisting of Jordan, Sudan, Saudi Arabia, Palestine, Kuwait and Egypt for reviewing the fund's draft statutes and working out the necessary estimates for balancing the fund in light of the data and views submitted by the PLO and the Arab League Secretariat.

In implementing this decision it was decided to send a committee of specialists to Amman in order to look at data and information regarding the financial estimates of the fund's amount for the next 5 years, from 1978 to 1982. These estimates total 370 million Jordanian dinars or the equivalent of $1,147 million.

It was deemed fit to divide the estimates into two stages, an immediate one and a deferred one.

The immediate stage covers 3 years, from 1979 to 1981. Its estimates total $554 million, at the rate of $182.28 million for 1979, $183.83 million for 1980, and $188.48 million for 1981. The deferred stage covers the rest of the estimates.

The memorandum, which has been distributed to Arab delegates to the Arab League, says that the purpose of the fund is to support the Palestinian citizen's economic, social and national steadfastness and to enable him to resist the Zionist policy which is aimed against the Palestinian, his soil, his economy and his heritage. The memo says that the Palestinian citizen is living in difficult conditions owing to increasing prices. During the past 7 years the cost of living has increased by 626 percent. This is in addition to the exorbitant Israeli taxes.

The schedules attached to the memo include figures of special significance, including, for example, the estimates for housing, which total $37.2 million for the first stage (1979-1981). The memo points to the urgent need for such housing in view of the natural increase in population and the drop in the Palestinian citizen's income, the Palestinian citizen who can hardly meet the cost of living. It is also owing to the lack of any Arab establishments offering loans to help build houses. Therefore, there is an urgent need to insure the building of housing and, consequently, to insure that a citizen remains entrenched in his land. Furthermore, housing provides job opportunities, preserves the land and makes it possible to take back Arab workers from the Israeli sector and employ them in Arab establishments.

Significantly, the amounts to be allocated to agriculture and industry total $137 million, which shows that the aim is to preserve the Palestinian lands and estates against the continuing Zionist colonization and to create job opportunities for the Arab workers, and thus provide economic income in the occupied territories, absorb the annual increase in manpower, particularly among young men graduating at various educational levels, and reduce unemployment.

Indeed, the Unified Fund for Supporting the Palestinian People in the Occupied Territories seeks to prevent the Arab areas from becoming part of Israel, a market for Israeli products and a source of manpower by which Israel can gradually implement its plan of Judaizing the area.

Therefore, the memo says, the countries which have undertaken providing such support, headed by Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Egypt, must translate these financial estimates into realities in the occupied territories.

This is what the Arab League Council will discuss at its forthcoming extraordinary session.

SUDANESE PARTY, ARAB LIAISON BUREAU MEET

LD121934Y Tripoli JANA in English 1538 GMT 12 Jul 78 LD

[Text] Tripoli, July 12, JANA--A joint communique was issued last night after the final meeting between the delegation of the Sudan Socialist Union and the Arab Liaison Bureau which was held at the Permanent Secretariat of the General People's Congress.

The communique denounced the policies which were not based on the principles, beliefs and interests of the Arab nation. The communique also called for unity in the Arab nation to confront the hostile schemes of the Zionist enemy and the colonialist conspiracies.

The two parties denounced the colonialist interventions in Arab and African affairs. They praised the Lebanese national forces' stands and their close alliance with the units of the Palestinian resistance in their courageous confrontation which affirmed the unity of Lebanon and the liberation of Palestine.

They also praised the Jamahiriyah, Sudan and Niger for their efforts to promote national interests in Chad and for their confidence that the African people was capable of solving its problems by itself.

The two parties urged the Arab nation to adopt the slogan "Arab unity" and take it as a principle of struggle for achieving progress.

They stressed the necessity of strengthening and developing relations between the two countries and the friendly relations between the two organizations and the need to study the people's experiments in the two countries in order to benefit from each other's experience. The two sides called for organising a continuous dialogue through exchanging cultural visits and holding regular meetings and camps to promote ideological unity as regards the Arab nation's decisive causes.

The two parties also recommended an increase in trade between the two countries.

ARAB LEAGUE RECEIVES MEMORANDUMS FROM YAR, PDRY

NC121506Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1425 GMT 12 Jul 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 12 July--The Arab League today held urgent contacts with the governments of San'a' and Aden on the accusations exchanged between them, which were contained in the memorandums the Arab League has received from the two countries.

Arab League Secretary General Mahmud Riyad has said that these contacts are aimed at finding out the nature of the measures that must be taken to prevent the further deterioration of relations between the two countries. Riyad said that the next step which the Arab League will take will depend on the replies which it will receive from Aden and San'a'.

The Arab League today sent to the governments of the member states the text of the two memorandums so as to solicit their views on the nature of the measures which can be taken to prevent the further deterioration of the situation.

KUWAIT

FOREIGN MINISTER LEAVES FOR TALKS IN SAUDI ARABIA

LD121042Y Kuwait Domestic Service in Arabic 1000 GMT 12 Jul 78 LD

[Text] Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir as-Sabah, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, left Kuwait this morning for Jidda with a letter from his highness the amir to his brother, His Majesty King Khalid ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz. The KUWAITI NEWS AGENCY reports that Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad will conduct talks with Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal within the framework of Saudi-Kuwaiti joint efforts to restore solidarity and normality to Arab relations.

PRIME MINISTER DISCUSSES TOPICAL ISSUES WITH JOURNALISTS

LD122012Y Kuwait Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 12 Jul 78 LD

[Summary] "This morning, Heir Apparent and Prime Minister Shaykh Sa'ad al-Abdullah as-Sabah met with chief editors of the local press. He spoke to them about important issues of the day in Arab and local fields. The information under secretary, the chairman of the board of the KUWAIT NEWS AGENCY, the information assistant undersecretary for broadcasting affairs and the assistant under secretary for financial and administrative affairs were present.

"At the beginning of his statement, his highness referred to recent developments in some Arab countries. This, he said, might serve as proof of the fact that a plan exists which seeks to weaken or divide the Arab world. He called on Arab leaders to stand up to this plan [words indistinct] the restoration of Arab solidarity so that the Arab nation could stand as one solid front against this plan."

Kuwait, he said, has always been anxious to consult and work with Arab brothers for the good of the Arab nation. Kuwait will continue on this road despite all difficulties.

"He explained that contacts were continuing with the brothers in the gulf in order to discuss the present and future of the region which occupied an important position for the whole world. Contacts are continuing for same purpose with the rest of the fraternal countries. His highness reasserted that the security and future of this region must be left to its people without any foreign interference and to this end, more coordination and consultation are needed.

"Referring to recent developments in the YAR and the PDRY, he said: So far, we have no accurate information regarding the (?third) party which has an interest in the assassination of Lt Col Ahmad Husayn al-Ghashmi. Time, he added, will clarify all these matters. The same applies to events in the PDRY. We in Kuwait, his highness said, are following closely the new situation in Aden and we are also following the policy of the new regime. It is in light of this policy that we shall adapt our relations and determine the style of our policy and cooperation with the PDRY. He stressed that Kuwait was committed to implementing the resolutions adopted by the Arab League Council in [word indistinct]. He also expressed hope that security would prevail in both parts of Yemen, north and south, and that understanding between them would prevail in view of their importance to the stability of the Arab world."

He stressed the seriousness of events in Lebanon and said that the amir had contacted Al-Asad and Sarkis in order to know what role Kuwait was supposed to play. The amir had sent the foreign minister as his envoy to both presidents. That mission was successful. Kuwait will continue contacts with the brothers to find an accepted solution to restore accord and understanding in Lebanon. The foreign minister's current mission in Saudi Arabia is within this framework.

"Regarding the recent coup in Mauritania, his highness hoped that there were no foreign agents behind this coup and that the coup would not have any dimensions or negative effects which would aggravate the division from which the Arab nation is already suffering.

"Referring to security, he mentioned the assassination of the head of the PLO office in Kuwait, the late Ali Yasin. He said that the authorities were continuing the investigation to know [word indistinct] in order to bring them to justice."

His highness also spoke about a number of local issues, such as the rent law and other laws. He also said any delay in any projects was due to technical reasons.

QATAR

INFORMATION MINISTER RECEIVES CUBAN DELEGATION

FL122145Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 2124 GMT 12 Jul 78 FL

[Text] 'Isa Ghanim al-Kuwari, minister of information and chief of cabinet of the amir of Qatar, today received the Cuban delegation headed by Giraldo Mazola, director of the North Africa and Middle East Desk of the Foreign Ministry. The Cuban delegation arrived in Qatar from Bahrain, and its mission is to inform the governments it is visiting of the preparations being made in Cuba for the nonalined summit conference.

SAUDI ARABIA

KUWAITI FOREIGN MINISTER RECEIVED BY KHALID

LD121040Y Riyadh SNA in Arabic 0945 GMT 12 Jul 78 LD

[Text] At 1200 today in his office at the government palace, His Majesty King Khalid ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz received Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad as-Sabah, Kuwaiti deputy prime minister and foreign minister, who conveyed to his majesty a message from Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad as-Sabah, amir of Kuwait.

The meeting was attended by His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdullah ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, 2nd deputy prime minister and commander of the National Guard; His Royal Highness Sa'ud al-Faysal, foreign minister; and Shaykh Badr as-Sabah, Kuwaiti ambassador to Saudi Arabia.

His Highness Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad as-Sabah arrived in Jidda before noon today on a short visit to the kingdom. He was welcomed at the airport by His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, Salim Sunbul, director of protocol in the Foreign Ministry, and the Kuwaiti ambassador to Saudi Arabia.

Holds Talks

LD121238Y Riyadh SNA in Arabic 1105 GMT 12 Jul 78 LD

[Text] Jidda--His Highness Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad as-Sabah, Kuwait's deputy prime minister and foreign minister, following his meeting at noon today with His Majesty King Khalid ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, stated that he discussed with his majesty Kuwait's viewpoint about the situation in Lebanon following his recent visits to Damascus and Beirut. In a statement to SNA, his highness stressed that relations between the kingdom and Kuwait are firm and strong and continue to strengthen with the passage of time because both countries are linked by ties of religion, blood and geographical proximity. His highness said that both countries are striving for the same target--to bring together and repair the damage in the ranks of the Arab nation. His highness the Kuwaiti foreign minister expressed the hope that God will preserve the Saudi and Kuwaiti leaderships for the service of their nations and people and will grant them success in their aspirations for worthiness and dignity.

Leaves Jidda

LD121503Y Riyadh SNA in Arabic 1339 GMT 12 Jul 78 LD

[Summary] Kuwaiti Foreign Minister Sabah al-Ahmad as-Sabah left Jidda today at the end of his short visit to the kingdom. The minister delivered a letter from the amir of Kuwait to His Majesty King Khalid.

The Saudi foreign minister and others were at the airport to see him off.

YEMEN--PDRY

'ALI NASIR MUHAMMAD GRANTS INTERVIEW TO KUWAITI PAPER

JN130855Y Manama GULF NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 0800 GMT 13 Jul 78 JN

[Text] Kuwait, 13 July--'Ali Nasir Muhammad, chairman of the PDRY Presidential Council, has denied that his country has become communist or a base for the Soviets.

In an interview with the Kuwaiti newspaper AL-QABAS that was published today, 'Ali Nasir Muhammad added that there is a small number of Cuban experts in the popular militias, but they are about to finish their task. He affirmed that Soviet planes did not take part in ending the coup attempt by former Chairman Salim Rubayyi' 'Ali.

'Ali Nasir described the quadripartite unity plan between North and South Yemen, Somalia and Djibouti--which was proposed by Somali President Mohamed Siad Barre--as unpractical. He said it is necessary to unite the Yemeni people before uniting with other fraternal peoples in the Red Sea region.

The Yemeni leader affirmed that his country is abiding by the agreements that were concluded between the two former leaders, Rubayyi' and Al-Hamadi, which deal with the common border and unity between the two parts of Yemen. He also affirmed that his country is ready to open a new dialog with the Government of the Yemen Arab Republic without previous conditions.

COUNCIL OF MINISTERS HOLDS REGULAR MEETING

LD121236Y Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 11 Jul 78 LD/EA

[Text] The Council of Ministers held its regular meeting this morning chaired by brother 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, member of the Politburo and chairman of the Presidential Council and the Council of Ministers. Agenda points discussed included a memorandum on the development of trade relations with socialist countries, a report on the progress of implementing agreements, protocols and contracts with sisterly and friendly countries and Arab and international funds.

The council also discussed reports presented by brothers 'Abd al-'Aziz 'Abd al-Wali, member of the Politburo, minister of industry and acting minister of planning; Nasr Nasir 'Ali, candidate member of the Politburo and minister of labor and civil service; and Mahmud 'Abdullah 'Ushaysh, member of the Central Committee and minister of communications, who were sent by the brother chairman of the Presidential Council and the Council of Ministers to sisterly Arab states to explain the recent incidents and developments in our country.

The council approved a number of decisions stressing the need to develop our trade relations with the socialist countries. The council approved the protocol for the delivery of Soviet equipment and vehicles.

Brother 'Ali Asad Muthana, secretary of the Council of Ministers, made a statement after the meeting, pointing out that, during its discussions on the memorandum concerning trade relations with socialist countries, the Council of Ministers had concentrated on the question of increasing our trade with friendly socialist states through import-export programs. It adopted a number of measures conducive to regulating trade relations with socialist states, which are tending toward continuing development.

On the Council of Ministers discussions of the reports presented by the personal envoys of brother 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, member of the Politburo and chairman of the Presidential Council and the Council of Ministers, to sisterly Arab states, he said that the visits paid by the brother ministers sent to Arab countries served to clarify in detail the various incidents and developments which have taken place in our Yemeni homeland. This has enabled our brothers in Arab countries to acquaint themselves with the facts relating to the allegations and fabrications made by information organs hostile to our Yemeni people and their democratic nationalist regime.

They also clarified our objective and responsible attitude toward the positions adopted toward our country by the Arab League at the Arab foreign ministers' conference in Cairo. These resolutions against Democratic Yemen were adopted in the absence of Democratic Yemen itself, and this violated, among other things, the covenants of the Arab League itself, which call for the unity of Arab ranks and for mutual cooperation conducive to the preservation of cordial and normal inter-Arab relations serving the interests of our Arab masses

Brother 'Ali Asad Muthana, secretary of the Council of Ministers, concluded his statement by saying that the visits paid by the special officials of the Presidential Council and the Council of Ministers stressed Democratic Yemen's firm, principled internal and external policies based on the United Political Organization-National Front and the constitution.

MINISTER REPORTS ON TRIPS TO DJIBOUTI, SUDAN

LD121212Y Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 11 Jul 78 LD/EA

[Text] Brother Nasr Nasir 'Ali, candidate member of the Politburo and minister of labor and civil service, returned to Aden this morning after a tour lasting several days of the Republic of Djibouti and the Democratic Republic of Sudan, during which he conveyed written messages from brother 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, member of the Politburo and chairman of the Presidential Council and the Council of Ministers, to the presidents of these countries concerning the situation in the Yemeni arena.

In a statement to the ADEN NEWS AGENCY following his arrival, brother Nasr Nasir 'Ali said that the meetings and talks with the brother officials there were very positive in that their views concurred on the need to rule out war and resolve differences by peaceful means. He added that the brother officials in Djibouti and Sudan expressed their concern at what is going on in the Yemeni arena. They also stressed their eagerness to do everything possible to eliminate tension, drive away the specter of war from the area and mobilize all potential against the Zionist enemy.

On his meetings with brothers Hassan Gouled, president of the Republic of Djibouti, and Abdallah Kamil, its prime minister and foreign minister, and also with Ar-Rashid at-Tahir Bakr, vice president and foreign minister of the Republic of Sudan, he said:

We informed them of the incidents that occurred in the two parts of the Yemen including details of the abortive coup led by the deviationist Salim Rubayyi'. We also explained to them the dimensions and dangers of the imperialist, Zionist and reactionary conspiracies being hatched against the Yemeni people in the northern and southern parts of the homeland, which aim at creating tension and throwing them into a bloody civil war.

The brother minister of labor and civil service assured the brothers in Djibouti and Sudan of Democratic Yemen's wish to establish good relations with all neighbors, particularly with our brothers in the northern part of the homeland. The brother officials in Democratic Yemen are prepared to meet their brothers in the northern part of the homeland to discuss all disputed issues through peaceful means. He explained: We asked the brother presidents there to assume their historic responsibilities to prevent bloodshed and to intervene to prevent war.

On the massing of forces on the border of Democratic Yemen, he said: We explained to the officials during our tour that the massing of forces on our border and the continuation of the propaganda war and the dissemination of rumors and lies will not achieve peace and security in the area but a heightening of tension and a preparation for war. He stressed that the resolutions of the Arab League do not serve the interests of the Arab nation and are a violation of the league charter.

INSTALLATIONS MINISTER RETURNS FROM ALGERIA, TUNISIA

LD121857Y Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 12 Jul 78 LD

[Summary] Minister of Installations Haydar Abu Bakr al-'Attas returned to Aden today after visits to Algeria and Tunisia during which he conveyed messages from Chairman 'Ali Nasir Muhammad to the presidents of the two countries on events in the Yemeni arena.

"Brother Haydar Abu Bakr al-'Attas expressed his great satisfaction at the full understanding shown by Algeria on the stands of Democratic Yemen, and reaffirmed its stand on the side of Democratic Yemen in its striving to thwart the reactionary and imperialist designs aimed at encircling the progressive regime in our country.

"In a statement to ADEN NEWS AGENCY, he said that he had had a reply from Algerian President Houari Boumediene to brother 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, chairman of the Presidential Council and Council of Ministers.

"On his visit to Tunisia, brother Haydar Abu Bakr al-'Attas said: I found sympathy in the brother officials when I briefed them on the attitude of the PDRY to recent events."

OPPOSITION FRONT CHARGES FOREIGN FORCES ON PDRY BORDER

NC1218102Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1708 GMT 12 Jul 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 12 July--The South Yemen United National Front has warned that the regime in Aden is preparing for an attack on the Yemen Arab Republic in cooperation with Soviet and Cuban forces that are now in the PDRY.

In a statement issued in Cairo today, the front affirmed that large numbers of Soviet, Cuban and South Yemeni troops are being massed on the borders between the PDRY and the YAR and Saudi Arabia, near Bab el-Mandeb.

The statement says that special engineering forces are building coridors [mamarrat] [presumably airstrips] near these borders. The statement also says that Antonov planes are transporting soldiers and equipment to nearby airports while at the same time MIG 21 and MIG 23 aircraft are continuously patrolling along the borders with the YAR and Saudi Arabia.

The statement affirmed that two Soviet missile carrying submarines have been spotted near the coast of Aden and that Soviet helicopters are patrolling in the vicinity of the submarines. The statement adds that 12 Soviet generals are with the naval units and submarines and that some of them are directly supervising the troops massed on the borders.

Meanwhile the South Yemen United National Front today sent a cable to the nonalined ministerial committee in Belgrade urging the nonalined foreign ministers, who will be meeting in the Yugoslav capital this month, to take the necessary measures against the PDRY Government now that its full alinement with the Soviet Union has been proved--a matter which is contrary to the principles of nonalinement.

The front requested in its cable that the Soviet, Cuban, East German and Bulgarian forces be withdrawn from South Yemen.

The front has also sent a similar cable to the African summit conference which will be held in Khartoum on Tuesday requesting it to denounce the regime in Aden.

The front points out that some of the African states, such as Egypt, Sudan, Kenya and Somalia, are exposed to Soviet plotting because of the regime in Aden which permits alien forces to use it as a base against Arab and African states.

AL-JAMASI, WEIZMAN EXCHANGE MESSAGES ON TALKS

NC121443Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1420 GMT 12 Jul 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 12 July--MENA's military editor has learned that the Israeli defense minister, 'Ezer Weizman, recently sent a message to the deputy prime minister and minister of war and war production, Gen Muhammad al-Jamasi, asking for an opportunity to meet with him before the tripartite foreign ministers conference between the United States, Egypt and Israel is held. The conference is scheduled to convene in London next Monday.

The military editor has also learned that Al-Jamasi has replied by saying that there will be no meetings on the military command level between Egypt and Israel as long as there is nothing new to discuss. An official military source has said that the next step will depend on the results of the political discussions at the London conference.

LONDON CONFERENCE TO HAVE NO PUBLIC SESSION

NC130620Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 0609 GMT 13 Jul 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 13 July--The newspaper AL-JUMHURIYAH today reports that it has been decided that all the London conference sessions will be held behind closed doors and there will be no public opening session. The paper also reports that Foreign Minister Muhammad Ibrahim Kamil will meet with U.S. Secretary of State Cyrus Vance before the conference begins next week to agree on how the conference will conduct its business.

PRESIDENT AS-SADAT TO PAY VISIT TO MUNICH

NC120600Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 2334 GMT 12 Jul 78 NC

[Excerpt] Cairo, 12 July--In its Thursday edition AL-AHRAM reports from Salzburg that tomorrow President Anwar as-Sadat will visit Munich in West Germany on the borders with Austria. AL-AHRAM adds that the president will spend several hours in Munich, after which he will return to Salzburg. He will leave Salzburg Friday for Alexandria.

MUBARAK RECEIVES PREMIER SALIM, AMBASSADOR EILTS

NC121205Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1157 GMT 12 Jul 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 12 July--Vice President Muhammad Husni Mubarak today received Prime Minister Mamduh Salim. His excellency also received U.S. Ambassador in Cairo Mr Hermann Eilts.

CAIRO RADIO REPORTS ON CABINET MEETING

NC121733Y Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 12 Jul 78 NC

[Excerpts] The cabinet held a meeting today under the chairmanship of Prime Minister Mamduh Salim. Information and Culture Minister 'Abd al-Mun'im as-Sawi has said that the prime minister spoke about the principal aims of President Muhammad Anwar as-Sadat's visit to Austria. He said that the president went to Austria to hold intensive talks with Chancellor Bruno Kreisky and to meet with the leaders of the Socialist International in order to give impetus to the peace process in the Middle East.

The prime minister said that the cabinet noted that President as-Sadat's move had come at an appropriate time to confront the Israeli stands which are aimed at affecting the momentum of the Egyptian initiative. This move is in agreement with the efforts being exerted by the U.S. administration and President Carter. It also paves the way internationally for the London conference.

The cabinet also noted that President as-Sadat's meeting with the leader of the Israeli opposition Labor Party places As-Sadat's move in a more comprehensive framework by including the leaders of the Socialist International and explaining tp them the soundness and seriousness of the Egyptian stand which is aimed at reaching a just peace. The cabinet believes that the Socialist International document, which calls for an Israeli withdrawal and recognition of the Palestinian people's right to participate in determining their fate, is an international stand that will affect the achievement of peace.

The information minister said that the cabinet discussed the forthcoming London conference. He said that the cabinet believes that the conference is a step toward making the participating sides assume their responsibility, and that the conference will promote the position of the United States being a full and responsible partner in the decision-making process in the Middle East. The cabinet also believes that the London conference is a step forward on the hard road to establishing a basis that would be acceptable to the sides concerned and that it is not the end of the efforts being exerted.

The cabinet then discussed the events in the Arab area and the threats to the Arab nation--threats which call for doubling the efforts of the Arab side which is the target of international plots. The cabinet then reviewed the results of the meetings of the Higher Committee for Integration between Egypt and Sudan which were held in Alexandria in June.

The information minister said that the cabinet also discussed the principles which were raised during the popular rallies which were held by the Arab Socialist Party of Egypt in order to discuss the future of and guarantees for democracy.

The information minister concluded his statement by saying that the cabinet heard a report by the agriculture minister on the cultivation of cotton. The minister said in his report that 1,209,000 feddans have been planted with cotton this year.

PRC MILITARY DELEGATION ARRIVES IN CAIRO

NC121955Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1945 GMT 12 Jul 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 12 July--A 13-member PRC military delegation, headed by the Chinese Army deputy chief of staff, arrived in Cairo today. The military delegation was received at the airport by the PRC ambassador in Cairo, Yao Kuang, members of the embassy staff and a War Ministry representative.

PROSECUTOR RESUMES INTERROGATION OF HAYKAL

NC121453Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1355 GMT 12 Jul 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 12 July--The socialist public prosecutor, Justice Anwar Habib, today resumed his interrogation of former AL-AHRAM chief editor Muhammad Hasanayn Haykal concerning the articles that he had published in Arab and foreign newspapers, which have a bearing on Egypt's reputation.

Haykal's lawyers, Ibrahim Dhikri and Hasan ash-Sharqawi, the secretary general of the Journalists Association, representing the association, attended today's session.

The proceedings will be resumed on Tuesday.

AL-AKHBAR ON IDEA OF PRESIDENT LEADING NEW PARTY

LD111450Y Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic 7 Jul 78 pp 1, 9 LD

[By Musa Sabri]

[Excerpts] I disagree with the view of Dr Ibrahim Salih, counselor at the Court of Cassation, whose article was published in AL-AKHBAR on Wednesday. Very briefly, his view provides the answer to a question now being raised concerning the idea of the head of state leading a new political party and the effect of such a step in deepening democracy or otherwise. Answering this question, counselor Ibrahim Salih says: "It is better that the president of the republic should remain detached from political parties and their conflicts, although it may be said that in the presidential systems there is no objection to the head of state being the leader of the ruling party as is the case in the United States.

Another argument advanced by Dr Ibrahim Salih in defense of his view is the fear of an all-encompassing power in view of the fact that under the constitution the president of the republic has executive powers, and therefore his leadership of a political party might affect the effectiveness and growth of other parties. This could lead to a partisan struggle in whose campaigns the president might personally become embroiled. He is also afraid that a party headed by the president of the republic might attract those seeking power and wealth.

I disagree with this opinion and say frankly that I express my views without having any background information on whether there is really an idea to form a new party or whether the president of the republic is inclined to call for the formation of a new party under his leadership.

Buy my opinion is not something new, for I have already discussed it in three articles published on 15, 17 and 18 February 1976. There was discussion then regarding the future of political action in Egypt, and in these articles I said that there was a majority in Egypt that rallies around the positive principles of the 23 July Revolution and is seeking to protect the 15 May Revolution and insure its continuity.

Therefore, if today I object to what Dr Ibrahim Salih says, this objection is based on a belief which, as I have already said, I expressed two years ago in a series of articles.

What has happened since?

After the elections, when the president declared the launching of the political party life and the platforms turned into parties, he remained apart from party activities. But has the president of the republic been able to remain apart? Has he been able not to become involved? The answer is he could not. Why?

It was not only because the regime in Egypt is presidential and therefore gives him constitutional powers to plan state policy together with the cabinet, or because the country is facing serious challenges represented in the economic crisis, or because the Soviet Union as a major power has openly been plotting against the regime--it was not only because of all these.

The fundamental reason was that the majority party was a new party that faced well-organized parties that had roots before the declaration of the establishment of political parties. These included an extreme leftist party that sought to exploit the economic crisis in order to spread chaos and destruction and cast doubts on the regime. They also included an old rightist party that allied itself with the communists to achieve a single aim--to strike at the regime.

We must admit that the majority party, in view of the fact that it was newly formed and that it lacks experience in party politics, created a vacuum which enabled the other experienced and veteran parties to indulge in corruption.

Therefore, the number one responsible man had to intervene in order to prevent a disastrous end to the democratic structure.

His responsibility here stems not only from the fact that he is the elected president but also from his leadership of the nation, a leadership that was not brought about by a constitution or legislation but rather was born as a result of historical events and of the decisions he has taken which changed the course of history through building democracy in Egypt and through the October war and the call for peace in the Arab area.

Therefore, there are no grounds for the fear expressed by counselor Ibrahim Salih, the fear that the president of the republic might be embroiled in party politics or that the autocratic system might return. The leadership by the president of an existing or a new party would be in fact the declaration of an already existing reality that should be given its real name.

In summary, the assuming by the president of the republic of the leadership of a new party is something that should have happened before. If the leadership has decided that this should take place at the present stage, it is a natural corrective action following 2 years of experiments that almost brought us to the brink of chaos and destruction.

I do not believe that As-Sadat's leadership of a new party can hamper the freedom of opinion in other parties. The open and public debates that the president conducts with the various factions and communities of the nation are the best example of such democracy.

PARIS JOURNAL PREDICTS CHANGES IN CABINET

LD101108Y Paris AN-NAHAR AL-'ARABI WA AD-DUWALI in Arabic 8 Jul 78 p 7 LD

[Text] AN-NAHAR AL-'ARABI WA AD-DUWALI has learned from well-informed Egyptian sources that the proposed cabinet shuffle that President as-Sadat will carry out on 23 July includes his assumption of the prime ministership, should it not be decided to assign this post to Vice President Husni Mubarak.

What is the background of events that made As-Sadat reach this decision after he had despaired of the previous cabinet changes?

The Egyptian ASU Central Committee held an extraordinary meeting on 20 June at President as-Sadat's request. The Egyptian president was expected to deliver a speech to the committee members declaring certain important political changes in the internal field. But As-Sadat changed his mind at the last moment and made a different speech in which he began by expressing optimism regarding his initiative despite Israel's hardline answer to the U.S. questions which was made public 2 days before the meeting.

Thus the beginning of his speech that afternoon was identical to the answers he gave in the interview with Italian television the same evening. The rest of the speech contained no surprises on the internal front.

Well-informed Egyptian sources say that President as-Sadat was then considering three decisions:

First, the establishment of a new party under his leadership, which would mean a new development in the Egyptian regime in that As-Sadat would combine the leadership of political activity with that of presiding over the executive authority.

Second, the question of whether As-Sadat should combine the presidency with the prime ministership as he did during the October war.

Third, the question of whether As-Sadat should combine three leaderships, that is, become the leader of a new party and the prime minister in addition to being president of the republic.

But President as-Sadat preferred to wait and chose to test the situation. He raised the idea of a new party through an article by 'Ali Hamdi al-Jammal in Cairo's AL-AHRAM in order to find out public reaction and particularly to prepare himself for the confrontation with the centrist party, since the establishment of a new party would be a public declaration of the failure of the centrist party led by Prime Minister Mamduh Salim.

Observers say that President as-Sadat's idea of assuming the prime ministership temporarily is owing to his fear that others might not be able to shoulder the responsibility of the present stage, which extends to 1 October when the mandate of the UN forces expires.

On the other hand, As-Sadat realizes that the departure of Prime Minister Salim would ease the present internal conflicts that have become acute as a result of competition between Salim and People's Assembly Speaker Sayyid Mar'i.

It is understood that in the recent cabinet change As-Sadat gave Salim his last chance in that he determined the battle in his favor in this dispute with the former deputy prime minister for economy and finance, whom Salim blamed for weakening the government. Al-Qaysuni insisted on implementing an economic policy which did nothing to help check the rise in prices. Prices did not stop rising as Salim's government had promised, and this has led to strong popular reaction to the new government.

In case As-Sadat drops the idea of assuming the prime ministership himself, it is likely that the man who would assume this post would be Vice President Husni Mubarak. There are several reasons for this, including the fact that Mubarak is detached from internal conflicts. Moreover, As-Sadat has great confidence in him to the point that recently he has referred to him many issues that were supposed to be referred to the prime minister.

But the fact that Husni Mubarak is disinclined to become involved in party politics is a point that is not in favor, since the present regime in Egypt provides that the prime minister should also be the leader of the majority party, something for which Mubarak does not aspire. This is in addition to the fact that Mubarak does not want to lose the post of vice president.

AN-NAHAR AL-'ARABI WA AD-DUWALI has learned from reliable sources that it was these anticipated developments that prompted Mamduh Salim to postpone until September his visit to France and other European countries which was scheduled to take place this month. This is providing that Salim's government remains in office, which is unlikely.

IRAQI-DPRK VICE PRESIDENTS BEGIN TALKS

JN121426Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1330 GMT 12 Jul 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 12 July--Official talks began here today between Vice President Taha Muhyi ad-Din Ma'ruf and Pak Song-chol, member of the Politburo of the Korean Workers Party Central Committee and DPRK vice president. During the talks, Pak Song-chol conveyed a message to Ma'ruf addressed to President Ahmad Hasan al-Bakr from President Kim Il-song.

During the meeting, cooperation between Iraq and the DPRK and means to strengthen this cooperation were discussed. The two sides exchanged viewpoints on international issues of common interest.

Ma'ruf expressed appreciation for the DPRK's stands on fateful Arab issues, primarily the Palestinian issue, while the Korean vice president praised Iraq's firm and principled stands on issues of liberation in the world, and its opposition to all forms of persecution and racial discrimination. He affirmed his country's firm stand in support of the just Arab struggle to regain all the occupied territories.

The two sides agreed to hold a meeting between Iraqi and Korean technicians to draw up a detailed program for bilateral cooperation.

INA has learned that, on behalf of President Kim Il-song, Pak Song-chol extended an invitation to President Ahmad Hasan al-Bakr and Saddam Husayn to visit the DPRK.

On the Iraqi side the talks were attended by 'Abd al-Muhsin al-Jamali, Foreign Ministry under secretary; the two heads of the Socialist and International departments in the Foreign Ministry; and Iftikhar Ahmad (Ayum), deputy chairman of the Iraqi Women's Union. On the Korean side, the talks were attended by Yi Hwa-son, deputy director of the International Department in the Korean Workers Party Central Committee; Yi Yong-ik, the DPRK ambassador in Baghdad; Kang Chom-suk, vice chairman of the Korean Democratic Women's Union; (Kim Yong-chang), under secretary of the Ministry of External Economic Affairs; and (Ho Yong-yong), adviser in the Foreign Ministry.

ERITREAN LEADER ARRIVES FOR ANNIVERSARY EVENT

JN120745Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 0725 GMT 12 Jul 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 12 Jul--Ahmad Nasir, chairman of the Eritrean Liberation Front--Revolutionary Council, arrived here early this morning to participate in the celebrations of the 10th anniversary of the Glorious 17 July Revolution.

Nasir said that he will discuss with officials of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party National Command the extremely delicate circumstances the Eritrean revolution is passing through. He said that the Eritrean revolution stresses the importance of solving the conflict peacefully and opening negotiations with Ethiopia without prior conditions in order to insure the rights and aspirations of the Eritrean people and to take into account the joint interests of the Eritrean and Ethiopian peoples.

Nasir said that the Eritrean revolution is at present facing large-scale military operations against the liberated areas. He stressed the Eritrean revolution's ability to confront the chauvinistic policy pursued by the Ethiopian regime.

SAUDI FOREIGN MINISTER DEPARTS, MAKES STATEMENT

JN111908Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1855 GMT 11 Jul 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 11 July--Saudi Minister of Foreign Affairs Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal left Baghdad this evening at the end of a short visit to Iraq which lasted approximately 12 hours.

During the visit, Prince Sa'ud delivered a message to President Ahmad Hasan al-Bakr from Saudi King Khalid ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz dealing with the current Arab situation.

Before his departure, Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal stated that during the talks viewpoints were identical on the necessity to confront the dangers facing the Arab nation and to continue cooperation between Iraq and Saudi Arabia.

Saddam Husayn, Revolution Command Council vice chairman, had met with the Saudi minister in the presence of Dr Sa'dun Hammadi, minister of foreign affairs. During the meeting, which lasted 2 and 1/2 hours, discussions centered on the current Arab situation. The meeting was attended by 'Abd al-Husayn al-Jamali, under secretary at the Iraqi Foreign Ministry, and the Saudi ambassador in Baghdad.

IRAQI, BRAZILIAN MINISTERS DISCUSS TRADE RELATIONS

JN121434Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1410 GMT 12 Jul 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 12 July--Hasan 'Ali, member of the Revolution Command Council and minister of trade, today discussed with Angelo Calmon de Sa, Brazilian minister of trade and industry, trade relations between the two countries and methods to develop these relations. During the meeting, the two ministers reviewed bilateral trade and economy activities, means to increase the trade exchange and the issues to be discussed by the joint Iraqi-Brazilian committee for trade and economic and technical cooperation during its next meeting.

AL-BAKR CONGRATULATES ARMED FORCES ON ANNIVERSARY

JN121440Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1405 GMT 12 Jul 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 12 July--President Ahmad Hasan al-Bakr has affirmed that in the past 10 years the Iraqi people have scored great achievements and magnificent victories to which the armed forces have had the honor of contributing.

This came in a message of congratulations addressed by President al-Bakr today to the men of the armed forces on the anniversaries of the two July revolutions [14 and 17 July]. He said: We have major battles ahead of us because our ambition is commensurate with the value of the immortal Arab nation. The enemies are numerous and they are well armed and prepared to fight us, engulfed with feelings of black rancor against the revolution and its party and masses. President al-Bakr stressed that we should be prepared for all this by training and determination to master the art of combat. He said that the armed forces had the honor of contributing to the people's struggle, bearing their share of sacrifices and offering martyrs.

BRIEFS

UN PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE--United Nations, 12 July--Salah 'Umar al-'Ali today presented his credentials to Secretary General Dr Kurt Waldheim as Iraq's permanent representative at the United Nations. Al-'Ali was formerly Iraq's ambassador to Spain. [Baghdad INA in Arabic 2040 GMT 12 Jul 78 JN]

HUSAYN RECEIVES BRITISH FOREIGN SECRETARY IN LONDON

JN121514Y Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 12 Jul 78 JN

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn received in London today Dr David Owen, British secretary for foreign and commonwealth affairs. Discussion during the meeting dealt with the situation in the Middle East and bilateral relations between the two countries.

MINISTER RECEIVES TWO CANADIAN OPPOSITION PARTY MEMBERS

JN121200Y Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1100 GMT 12 Jul 78 JN

[Text] Information Minister 'Adnan Abu 'Awdah received in his office this morning (Douglas Roche), chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the Canadian Progressive Conservative Party, and (Vetkan Edmonds), the party's adviser, who are currently visiting Jordan. During the meeting, the minister reviewed the stages of development in the political efforts being exerted to solve the Middle East crisis. The minister explained what Israel has done to bring these efforts and endeavors to an impasse. He added that Israel desires peace but that its leadership will not adopt the stands and means that would lead to a just and balanced peace.

The minister also pointed out the importance of time as a factor in the Arab-Israeli dispute. Under present circumstances, time increases the danger that political efforts will come to an impasse. He then referred to Israeli settlement policy in the occupied territories and stressed that this is not a political program of a concerned government but is evidence of the ambitions of the Zionist movement. For settlement began under a Labor Party government and is currently carried on by the Likud government.

The minister also explained the dangers caused by the absence of a just peace, whether on the regional or international level.

The two members of the Canadian opposition party expressed their appreciation for the Jordanian stand and its clear concept and vision which call for hope and reassurance. They expressed their hope for increased contact and understanding between Jordanian and Canadian peoples.

PRIME MINISTER BADRAN MEETS WITH SHARIF SHARAF

JN130558Y Amman AD-DUSTUR in Arabic 13 Jul 78 p 1 JN

[Text] Prime Minister Mudar Badran received His Excellency Sharif 'Abd al-Hamid Sharaf, chief of the Royal Hashemite Court, in his office yesterday where they held a lengthy meeting. Sharaf returned to Amman from London on the evening of the day before yesterday.

PARIS ARABIC MAGAZINE EXPECTS CABINET RESHUFFLE

JN130910Y Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 0800 GMT 13 Jul 78 JN

[Text] Paris--AL-WATAN AL-'ARABI magazine has reported that a cabinet reshuffle will take place in Jordan after the return of King Husayn from his present tour to the United States, the Federal Republic of Germany and Great Britain. The magazine said that either Chief of the Royal Court 'Abd al-Hamid Sharaf or Information Minister 'Adnan Abu 'Awdah could form the new Jordanian Government.

It has been reported in Amman that the anticipated cabinet reshuffle is related to the developments of the Arab situation under the settlement negotiations carried out by As-Sadat's regime with the enemy.

JORDAN TIMES CRITICIZES LONDON CONFERENCE, PRAISES AS-SADAT

JN120600Y Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 12 Jul 78 p 2 JN

[Editorial: "London: Still a Great Show"]

[Text] It is often easy to take things too seriously in the Middle East, and some things are best taken less seriously. The London conference grouping the Israeli, Egyptian and American foreign ministers next week is one of those matters that should be taken less seriously. The conference does not seem auspicious in any manner except in the realm of public relations. The Egyptians and the Israelis are going into the talks having flatly rejected each other's peace plans, and both are going to make a good show of seeking peace in London because the Americans would like that kind of show to continue, and the Israelis and Egyptians both owe enough to Washington to go along with this request. Neither Israel nor Egypt wants to look like the one that stopped the negotiations, and, thus, the London exercise will go down in history as a supreme feat of public relations, designed to make it look as if things are moving right along, while everyone knows that they are not moving anywhere at all.

It is true that some points of agreement have started to emerge between the Egyptian and Israeli positions, notably the need for a transitional period during which the people of the West Bank and Gaza would have a chance to determine their own future. But little else of substance has been agreed upon in the bilateral Egyptian-Israeli negotiations of the past eight months or so, and this is largely because President Sadat appears to have remained faithful to the key Arab demands for a just settlement--a full Israeli withdrawal and a recognition of Palestinian rights. The Israeli hope that President Sadat would merrily leave the other Arabs behind and sign his own bilateral peace accord with Israel has been thoroughly dashed so far. It is unlikely that things will change in London next week, either on the Israeli or the Egyptian side, which relegates the London talks to the realm of the procedural imperative, where we get more momentum and less substance. It is one of the occupational hazards of peace-making, and it should be viewed as such without being overdramatised.

GOVERNMENT CRISIS CONTINUES TO PLAGUE LEBANON

Al-As'ad Meets With Sarkis

NC121845Y Voice of Lebanon [Clandestine] in Arabic to Lebanon 1815 GMT 12 Jul 78 NC

[Excerpt] On leaving the Presidential Palace in B'abda, Speaker Kamil al-As'ad announced that proposals have been submitted for settling the crisis and are now under study. He added: We hope they will be implemented in the near future. At any rate, it is up to the president of the republic. I believe that he will adopt an appropriate stand soon.

Asked whether an extraordinary session will be held by the Chamber of Deputies, Speaker al-As'ad said: It is pointless to hold an extraordinary session now, particularly since the deputies will not be able to come. Furthermore, the government will not be able to open a session before President Sarkis abandons his resignation idea. Asked if the president will do that, Speaker al-As'ad said: President Sarkis has not resigned and efforts are currently being exerted to resolve the present crisis. We have been able to arrive at objective, effective and serious decisions even on the collection of arms.

Answering another question, he said: In Damascus we did not discuss the question of a substitute for the president of the republic because no resignation has been submitted yet.

Concluding, Speaker al-As'ad expressed hope that the efforts being made will produce positive solutions that will restore security and stability to the country.

Some Ministers May Resign

JN130840Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 0820 GMT 13 Jul 78 JN

[Text] Beirut, 13 July--It was disclosed here today that Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss is being subjected to pressure to resign. The papers point out that the reason for seeking his resignation is to be able to form a cabinet headed by a Maronite that will assume power in the political vacuum that would be created by the resignation of the prime minister and the head of state.

It should be recalled that the Lebanese constitution provides that the cabinet assumes power in the event that the post of head of state becomes vacant for any reason and until a new president is elected.

The newspaper AL-LIWA' reports that attempts are being made to torpedo the cabinet from within after Dr al-Huss refused to resign. The paper reports that Foreign and Defense Minister Fu'ad Butrus and Minister of Finance Farid Rufayil intend to tender their resignations to President Sarkis under the pretext that they do not want to be held responsible for current developments.

Sham'un Open Letter to Sarkis

NC122033Y Voice of Lebanon [Clandestine] in Arabic to Lebanon 1615 GMT 12 Jul 78 NC

[Excerpts] Former President Camille Sham'un addressed the following open letter to President Ilyas Sarkis today about his resignation:

Mr President, the news of your unexpected resignation has caused a flurry at the international level in some world radios and newspapers and left a deep sense of depression among the Lebanese people.

You owed it to the living Lebanese people and, above all, to the hundreds of martyrs who were killed by artillery fire, to hear from you, at least once, a statement explaining why you have made this horrifying decision. Instead you have opted to abandon your steadfastness and to evade the duty of frankness. You left the Lebanese in the dark and opened the door for all kinds of speculations and doubts. Some have said that you knew of everything that has happened and that in agreement with the Syrian deterrent forces you staged the play which took place in 'Ayn ar-Rummanah, Furn ash-Shubbak and Badary Street. Others have said that your resignation was a protest against the oppressive moves of the Syrians in Al-qa' and R'as Ba'labakk, 'Ayn ar-Rummanah and Al-Ashrafiyah. Assuming that this was the case, it was your duty to explain everything to the Lebanese and world public opinion and to ask the deterrent forces to leave instead of you leaving. The history of the Lebanese Republic has on record two resignations in the past.

You have now submitted your resignation under the most serious circumstances in Lebanon, with shells falling and fire devouring homes and establishments and killing hundreds of citizens without mer[illegible]. Do you think that this behavior of yours is the behavior of a responsible leader and president? Do you think that you have acted like a brave captain who does not abandon his ship but rather insists on saving it with every sacrifice and dedication or sinks with it in honor and nobility. I will not go to B'abda and I will not ask you to go ahead with your resignation or stay in office. Mr President, you must choose between being a full Lebanese or a half Lebanese.

Please accept my highest respects.

UNIFIED FORCES COMMAND ADOPTS TOP SECRET DECISIONS

NC121948Y Voice of Lebanon [Clandestine] in Arabic to Lebanon 1915 GMT 12 Jul 78 NC

[Text] The Command of the Lebanese Unified Forces held an extraordinary meeting at 1700 today under the chairmanship of Shaykh Bashir al-Jumayyil. All members attended. The meeting lasted for 3 and 1/4 hours. The Voice of Lebanon has learned that during the meeting important and top secret decisions were adopted. Sources attending the meeting declined to give any hint about the contents of these decisions.

PHALANGISTS DENY DISTRIBUTION OF LEAFLETS

NC121520Y Voice of Lebanon [Clandestine] in Arabic to Lebanon 1415 GMT 12 Jul 78 NC

[Text] Leaflets were distributed today in some of the capital's suburbs. These leaflets were attributed to the Lebanese Phalangists. The Secretariat General of the Phalangist Party has stated that these leaflets were intended to create intrigue. On this occasion, the Secretariat General of the Lebanese Phalangist Party wishes to draw attention to the fact that any statement not emanating from the party leader, the secretariat general or the responsible quarters of the party should be disregarded.

VOICE OF LEBANON REPORTS CALM ON MOST COMBAT LINES

NC130701Y Voice of Lebanon [Clandestine] in Arabic to Lebanon 0515 GMT 15 Jul 78 NC

[Excerpt] The security reports received by the Voice of Lebanon this morning indicate that the situation now seems to be calm on most combat lines. Meanwhile, caution continues to prevail in the streets of 'Ayn ar-Rummanah, Furn ash-Shubbak and in some quarters of Al-Ashrafiyah because of sniper fire.

PRESIDENT RECEIVES CABLE OF SUPPORT FROM BISHOP CAPUCCI

JN111313Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 11 Jul 78 JN

[Text] President al-Asad has received the following cable from Archbishop Hilarion Capucci:

Amid the grave events buffeting beloved Lebanon, we support you and President Sarkis. Our hearts, thoughts and prayers are for the (?safety) of the twin countries and for the establishment of peace and love in Lebanon and among all its sons so they may remain one cohesive and independent country, people and brotherhood.

We refuse to see the events in Lebanon be used as a [word indistinct] to harm Syria, Arabism and struggle. Christian and Moslem Lebanon--which is linked basically, emotionally, historically and geographically with Syria--is an impregnable wall in the face of plots concocted against Syria. We believe that Syria's pioneering efforts emanate from its genuine and patriotic concern about the interests of the two peoples. For this reason we demand that legitimacy be applied and allowed to exercise its power over the whole of Lebanon. We denounce partition, because a Christian Lebanon would be another Israel in the body of the Arab nation. We strongly denounce any form of contact with the Zionist enemy. We definitely refuse even the mere utterance of the idea that Israel can be the protector of the Christians shows the contrary.

[Words indistinct] with vigilance to undertake the affairs with well-known wisdom. Proceed under the guidance of your conscience and patriotism, pleasing God and in the benefit of the homeland and the pride of the Arab nation. Signed, your sincere brother, Hilarion Capucci, Archbishop of Jerusalem in Exile.

FRENCH SOCIALIST PARTY OFFICIAL CRITICIZES AS-SADAT

JN011410Y Damascus SANA in Arabic 1250 GMT 1 Jul 78 JN

[Text] Damascus, 1 July--(Pierre Cout), director of foreign policy in the French Socialist Party, has asserted that As-Sadat's initiative has failed because it was motivated by self-deception and was not based on a correct analysis of the situation. (Cout) added that Syria foresaw the failure of the initiative because Syria knows all the factors of the situation and what they portend.

In an interview with the newspaper TISHRIN published today, (Cout) said that As-Sadat's initiative failed for three reasons: First, the Israelis did not give As-Sadat what he expected; second, As-Sadat neglected the Arab dimensions of the settlement; third, the United States is not capable of bringing sufficient pressure to bear on Israel.

He added that as a result, the situation in the Middle East is more dangerous now than it was before the initiative. He said that the situation portends unexpected explosions and surprises, and this constitutes a source of despair.

(Cout) declared that the French Socialist Party opposes French military intervention in Africa. The party also opposes the conversion of France--the ancient civilized state--into a Western police force in Africa, carrying out what the United States failed to do. He added that the party opposes reducing France's mission to protecting certain shaky regimes which cannot confront their own peoples.

ALGERIA

AMBASSADOR CRITIQUES COOPERATION WITH FRANCE

LD100831Y Algiers EL MOUDJAHID in French 28 Jun 78 p 3 LD

[APS report: "Algeria Cannot Remain Indifferent to Developments in a Situation Which Endangers Its Own Security"]

[Excerpt] Paris--A study and information day on Algeria organized by the Franco-Arab Chamber of Commerce French-Algerian Bilateral Section--took place in Paris yesterday in the presence of several French and Algerian personalities and several hundred representatives of French firms and banks.

After the welcoming speech delivered by Chairman of the Franco-Arab Chamber of Commerce Michel Habib-Deloncle, Algeria's Ambassador to France Mohamed Bedjaoui, opening the day's proceedings, emphasized in particular the correlation between political problems and economic issues. The ambassador recalled the deficit in French-Algerian trade to the detriment of Algeria, then mentioned "the many factors militating in favor of an expansion of trade" between Algeria and France, before continuing:

"The ties of economic and technological interdependence which this will necessarily entail for a long time mean that on both sides tactics must be discarded in favor of a strategy based on a lucid evaluation of mutual interests and real similarities.

"Given the scope of such an undertaking and its medium and long term implications for the economies of the two countries, it does not seem realistic to approach it from a strictly economic viewpoint, disregarding the political framework into which it must necessarily be integrated.

"Algeria's political approach is not synonymous with preliminaries and conditions. It stems quite simply from a broad view of the scope of its cooperation. It also stems from the need to give priority to quality over quantity and specific commercial operations."

"Certainly," Mr Bedjaoui added, "economic and commercial trade between Algeria and France is still at a high level, as I pointed out, but the least one can say is that, in 1977 and 1978, it far from matches what it could and should have been. It in no way corresponds to the human and material potential of the two countries, their vast areas of economic complementarity and the advantages derived in particular from various other factors, such as the linguistic factor and geographical proximity. All these factors have always influenced Algeria's general viewpoint and it is this same viewpoint that demands a 'political' approach to economic relations between the two countries.

"For although Algeria believes quite simply that the sovereignty of each partner must be respected and its policy chosen freely, it is quite justified, on the other hand, in taking into due account the effects of its partners' policy on its national interests in determining its bilateral relations.

"The attitude adopted by one of our most important partners in the tension prevailing in our region--whose peace is thus threatened--permits neither the serenity nor the optimism necessary, if not essential, for realizing a cooperation plan on a scale commensurate with the two countries' immense potential.

"If I have mentioned this subject, it is to remind you of the self-evident fact that Algeria cannot remain indifferent to developments in and the implications of a situation prevailing on its own borders and endangering its own security."

"However," Mr Bedjaoui went on to stress, "Despite this blot on our relations, Algeria does not intend to introduce any kind of discrimination against its many French partners.

"Yet it must also be underlined that, from the strictly economic viewpoint, Algeria cannot put up indefinitely with an ever widening imbalance in its trade with France.

"The tolerable threshold has long been exceeded and this situation, which results in dependence on one side only, has only been tolerated by Algeria in expectation of a revival of cooperation which would restore the necessary balance between the two countries' interests.

"I believe that it is more advisable than ever to adopt the language of frankness and realism in order to establish our future relations on more stable foundations, for both sides cannot turn our backs indefinitely to the geography, the history and the similarities which are fortunately so natural between our two countries."

LIBYA

MINISTER ACCUSES CHAD OF IMPEDING RECONCILIATION TALKS

JN111709Y Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1632 GMT 11 Jul 78 JN

[Text] Khartoum, 11 July--Dr at-Turayki [Libyan secretary of foreign affairs] has announced [place and date not given] that Sudan, the Libyan Jamahiriyah and Niger will continue their efforts to bring about national reconciliation in Chad in the interests of the entire Chadian people.

Dr at-Turayki said: For this purpose, we held the Sabha conference, which was successful, and reached the Benghazi agreement, which was a good one. However, we were taken by surprise by the French intervention, which impeded the implementation of the agreement. He added: Finally, we held the Tripoli conference which was clear. We were surprised that the Chadian Government's delegation did not want a solution. When we, Sudan and Niger drafted a project to bring about national reconciliation in Chad, the delegation of the Chadian Government refused even to discuss the project. This forced the three states to issue a statement putting the responsibility for the failure of the negotiations on Chad.

INFORMATION MINISTER RETURNS TO TRIPOLI FROM SYRIA

LD121651Y Tripoli JANA in English 1437 GMT 12 Jul 78 LD

[Text] Tripoli, 12 July, JANA--The Information and Culture Secretary Muhammad Abu al-Qasim az-Zuwayy returned to Tripoli yesterday after a 24-hour visit to Syria during which he delivered a message to Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad from Colonel al-Qadhdhafi. The message deals with the current Arab situation and the continuation of contacts between the steadfastness and confrontation countries.

Mr az-Zuwayy was seen off by his Syrian counterpart Mr. Ahmad Iskandar Ahmad.

AL-HUMAYDI RECEIVES JORDANIAN INTERIOR MINISTER

LD102036Y Tripoli JANA in English 1851 GMT 10 Jul 78 LD

[Text] Tripoli, 10 July, JANA--Major al-Khuwaylidi al-Humaydi, member of the General Secretariat of the General People's Congress, met Mr Sulayman 'Arar, the visiting Jordanian interior minister, and his delegation today.

The meeting was attended by the under-secretary for the interior and the Jordanian ambassador to the Jamahiriyah and the two sides discussed the present situation in the area. They also looked into ways of bolstering relations between the two sister countries in all fields and in particular that of law and order.

Views were exchanged on the means of consolidating efforts to confront all schemes directed towards surrendering Arab rights.

Major al-Humaydi, who is also chief of civil defense, asserted that the Arab cause is a national issue and no one person has the right to impose solutions, nor can they be imposed by a foreign base. Major al-Humaydi added that the artificial frontiers set up by colonialism should not separate Arabs or stand in the way of the freedom and prosperity of the Arab masses.

JANA CITES COMMUNIQUE ON ONSLAUGHT BY IMPERIALISM

ID102052Y Tripoli JANA in English 1828 GMT 10 Jul 78 ID

[Text] Tripoli, 10 July, JANA--The Permanent Secretariat of the Arab People's Congress has issued a communique in which it affirms "the vicious imperialist onslaught against the Arab nation is increasing as never before."

The first stage of onslaught was the Egyptian president's trip of shame to occupied Jerusalem in order to liquidate the Palestinian cause, reinforce the Zionist occupation, impose American proposals on the area and secure imperialist monopolization of Arab wealth, particularly the oil.

Then the Zionist gang conducted the second stage of the onslaught by committing direct aggression against southern Lebanon. The onslaught was completed by the U.S. imposing on Lebanon the UN forces in which French troops played the principal role.

Due to the great resistance with which the Palestinian revolution and the Lebanese National Movement confronted the Zionist aggression and the foreign presence that followed the aggression, imperialism and its allies took refuge in complicating the situation in Lebanon by creating social instability, imposing military tension throughout the country and interfering directly to prevent the Arab peacekeeping forces from facing the fascist Phalangist gangs which no longer hide their relationships with the Zionists and American imperialists.

The current Zionist military movements on the Lebanese and Syrian borders indicate that the Zionist enemy is determined to impose capitulation upon the Arab nation.

The statement referred to suspicious French movements, with blatant support from the U.S., in the Arab world where French military aircraft are attacking the Arab people in the Western Sahara and French troops are encircling the progressive regime in Algeria and the Jamahiriyah and interfering in Chad against its people's welfare and interest.

The communique affirmed that world imperialism has provoked new instability in the south of the Arabian Peninsula and the Arab Gulf by inciting putsch actions in North Yemen and by attempting a coup against the progressive regime in South Yemen. The aim of imperialism is to set off a border war between the two neighbouring parts of Yemen in favour of the interests of imperialism and Arab reaction.

The communique also stated that Arab revolutionary nationalist and progressive forces are requested to act with vigilance and intrepidity and to take a firm stand against the increasing number of conspiracies which have thwarted the pan-Arab struggle.

It called upon the forces of the Arab progressive national movement to declare their condemnation of the reactionary imperialist scheme.

It specified that today world imperialism, headed by the United States, insistently tries to paralyze the movement of Arab national struggle either through coups, by means of direct military provocation or by devising plots, the threads of which are now being woven during As-Sadat's visit to Europe and his meetings with the U.S. authorities and the Zionists as an alternative to his capitulationist initiative which has fallen flat because of the Arab people's steadfastness.

The communique emphasized the need for increased struggle on all fronts to face the imperialist, Zionist and reactionary aggression in the Arab West, East and South.

MAURITANIA

NEW LEADER EXPLAINS MILITARY'S INTENTIONS

LD102050Y Tripoli Voice of the Arab Homeland in Arabic 2015 GMT 10 Jul 78 LD

[Excerpt] The Jamahiriyah ambassador in Mauritania has been summoned to the headquarters of the Military Committee where he was received by Col Mustapha Ould Mohamed Salek, commander of the military movement, who explained to him the reasons that led to the army seizing power. He assured him that the aim of the movement was to save the country from its present condition. He said that the movement respects all international promises and pledges and that all international communications and borders with Mauritania will be closed temporarily and that our relations with all will be natural.

He assured him that the movement was a white one and does not seek any bloodshed and that the life of former President Moktar Ould Daddah will be safe.

Interviewed by Paris Radio

LD121452Y Paris Domestic Service in French 1000 GMT 12 Jul 78 LD

[Text] For the first time since the coup d'etat in Mauritania, the new strong man of the regime, Colonel Ould Salek, speaks exclusively to France Inter. The head of the military committee replied to the questions of our special correspondent Yves (Loiseau). He confirmed to him that Mauritania will not break its international commitments and for the time being wants the continuance of French military aid.

[Salek--begin recording in French] Of course we want it to be maintained. I hope that France will not consider (?modifying it). We think that if (?at the moment) we appeal to France, it is because we considered our integrity and sovereignty to be threatened. (?As) long as it is, and I think that at present it has been for some time, unfortunately, we are asking France in fact to (?maintain) this (?cover). The day we are no longer threatened--we are obviously a proud people, we will not hesitate to ask France to (?withdraw) its air cover. [end recording]

More on Interview

LD121454Y Paris Domestic Service in French 1100 GMT 12 Jul 78 LD

[Text] Mauritania--Mr Moustapha Ould Salek, president of the new government, has confirmed his intent not to modify the foreign policy of the former regime. This morning, in an exclusive interview to our special correspondent, Yves (Loiseau), he wished to specify the orientations which he intends to adopt.

[Salek--begin recording in French] We military men do not consider that we have carried out a coup d'etat. We think rather that we have carried out a counter-coup d'etat. All the democratic and (?representative) institutions of this country have been ridiculed since this country has become bankrupt. I believe that (?we must not) at this stage avoid saying [words indistinct].

The government, the former government, showed itself to be incapable of facing this situation. What interests us military (?men) in this situation is that a recovery should be brought about. We want our country to be able [words indistinct] to make truly democratic institutions, accepted and freely chosen by the Mauritanian people. That is the recovery which we want to arrive at. When the people choose to have a solely military, solely civilian or military and civilian government, the Military Committee of National Recovery will certainly not envisage opposing this.

[Question] Is it conceivable, Mr President, that you would begin negotiations with the so-called leaders of the POLISARIO Front?

[Answer] Listen, for the moment this problem (?concerns) us for the same reason as [words indistinct] fraternal Kingdom of Morocco. I think that with it we will probably establish a timetable of work, a process which should incontestably lead us to peace, because this [words indistinct] that you announced earlier on--probably the people's spokesman--here the people want peace, and the military council will do everything to (?achieve) this peace.

[Question] Since Mauritania's independence, nearly 18 years ago now, relations between France and your country have had ups and downs. Following the takeover of power which has just happened in Nouakchott, can one expect a change in the relations between Mauritania and France?

[Answer] I must tell you that I do not think there will be changes. We have many links with the French people [words indistinct], relations which it is difficult to shatter. I even think that it is a monumental error to think of shattering them, insofar as Mauritania is free and independent and makes itself respected and respects all friends, and in particular, I must say, France, because we consider that, after all, we have with this country a (?privileged) situation and special relations which should be consolidated and continued. [end recording]

Meets With Reporters

PA130201Y Paris AFP in English 0115 GMT 13 Jul 78 PA

[Text] Nouakchott, 12 Jul (AFP)--The bloodless coup that brought a military committee to power in Mauritania on Monday was organised without help from any other country, Lieutenant Colonel Mustapha Ould Mohamed Salek, the country's new military leader, said here today.

He told a group of foreign journalists that high-level envoys arrived from Morocco the evening of the takeover for talks with the new regime.

shall undertake a series of [words indistinct] states friendly to Mauritania to explain our action," he said.

The coup--a "strictly internal" operation--had been planned for several months by a group of officers encouraged by civilian cadres "who did not want to underwrite the physical destruction of the country," Lieutenant Colonel Salek added.

Mauritania's republican institutions had been flouted for a long time and the country was heading for bankruptcy, while the former government of President Moktar Ould Daddah was unable to rectify the situation, he went on.

He confirmed earlier statements that the Military Committee of National Recovery would not hold power indefinitely. It would, he said, "respect the wishes of the people."

National recovery would probably be tied to the outcome of the fighting with the POLISARIO Liberation Front over the Western Sahara, annexed by Mauritania and Morocco two years ago, the military ruler said. He continued: "We shall definitely work out a working timetable with Morocco to set in motion a process leading to peace."

He said he hoped that in the meantime French fighter aircraft would continue "for as long as necessary" their intervention in Mauritania, where they have been in action against POLISARIO guerrilla columns. "We are a country that has been attacked and we must be able to defend ourselves effectively," he added.

Asked about the fate of the ousted leaders, Lieutenant Colonel Salek said nodecision had been taken, but the military regime was not motivated by a spirit of vengeance.

He added that the new leadership would strive to consolidate Mauritania's "privileged" relations with France, its former colonial overlord.

NEW GOVERNMENT TO STUDY POLISARIO CEASE-FIRE

PA130453Y Paris AFP in English 0450 GMT 13 Jul 78 PA

[Text] Nouakchott, 13 July (AFP)--Mauritania's new Foreign Minister Sheikh Ould Mohamed Laghdaf said last night he was prepared to look closely at the ceasefire announced yesterday by the Saharan Liberation Movement POLISARIO Front.

"We never wanted war and we are ready to study any peace initiative from wherever it comes," he declared. The new government and ruling Military Committee would debate the POLISARIO announcement and give an official reply late, Mr Laghdaf added.

Israel Ould Amar, general director of the state industrial and mining company, said that the news of the ceasefire was "excellent."

The firm's trains carrying iron ore from the mining town of Zouerate to the port of Nouadhibou have often been attacked by POLISARIO guerrillas, and the line has been closed on a number of occasions.

MOROCCO

MINISTER COMMENTS ON RELATIONS WITH MAURITANIA

JN121521Y Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1445 GMT 12 Jul 78 JN

[Text] Khartoum, 12 July--Moroccan Foreign Minister M'hamed Boucetta has expressed the belief that his country's obligations to Mauritania will continue.

Boucetta, who is heading his country's delegation to the OAU Ministerial Council meetings, told SUNA after meeting with President Ja'far Muhammad Numayri this morning that his country has good and strong relations with Mauritania. He said that there are (?19,000) Moroccan soldiers in Mauritania, at the request of that country to defend its territorial integrity.

Boucetta said that his meeting with President Numayri dealt with bilateral relations between the two countries and that he informed the president of his country's viewpoint on the issues under discussion in the OAU and the Arab arena.

Asked about his country's position on the new ruling regime in Mauritania, Boucetta said that he does not have sufficient information to give an opinion now.

Morocco Reportedly Neutral

NC122231Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 2206 GMT 12 Jul 78 NC

[Excerpt] Rabat, 12 July--A Moroccan authoritative source has told MENA that Morocco considers what happened in Mauritania to be an internal affair that does not constitute a threat to the strategic relations between Morocco and Mauritania. He added that Morocco adopted a stance of neutrality and nonintervention in the Mauritanian conflict from the first moment.

The Moroccan source revealed to MENA in Rabat that "on hearing the first news of the military coup" King Hassan of Morocco issued orders to the 9,000 Moroccan troops stationed in strategic positions in Mauritania to remain in their positions and not to interfere in any way with what was happening.

Analyzing the situation in Mauritania, the source said that the military coup was expected. He added that the coup leaders had sharp differences with former President Ould Daddah on several domestic issues and also on the question of solving Mauritania's economic problems.

Pledges to Mauritania Unchanged

LD131256Y Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 13 Jul 78 LD

[Text] M'hamed Boucetta, Moroccan minister of state in charge of foreign affairs and cooperation, has made a statement to the SUDANESE NEWS AGENCY. In it he says that Morocco's pledges vis-a-vis Mauritania remain as they are and no changes have been made in them, recalling that 9,000 Moroccan soldiers are now in Mauritania at the request of the Nouakchott government to protect Mauritanian territory.

Regarding the changed situation in Mauritania, Boucetta said that Moroccan-Mauritanian relations remain good and that what happened in this country is Mauritania's internal affair.

MOROCCO SIGNS AGREEMENT TO BUY NUCLEAR REACTOR

LD112050Y Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 11 Jul 78 LD

[Text] Moussa Saadi, minister of energy and mineral resources, chaired the ceremony this morning of signing the agreement under which Morocco will obtain a nuclear reactor for research from the Generals Atomiques Company in the presence of 'Abd al-Latif bin 'Abd Jlil, rector of Muhammad V University.

The reactor, which was chosen as a result of an international tender, is distinguished by its easy running and guaranteed safety of its use, which makes it possible to set up in urban regions. Moussa Saadi delivered a speech in which he said this nuclear reactor is for training research technicians who will run the nuclear power station and other specialized installations which Morocco intends to acquire in the future. This reactor will also be used for other peaceful purposes and nuclear technology such as mineral research and the production of isotopes which are used chiefly in medicine and agriculture.

The acquiring of this apparatus falls within the framework of cooperation between the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources and the University of Muhammad V. Its headquarters will be at the Institute of Nuclear Studies at the College of Sciences in Rabat and is expected to be commissioned at the end of 1978. The total cost of acquiring and building this reactor is about 10 million dirham. Attending this ceremony were At-Tayyib Squalli, the general secretary of the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources and other officials from the ministry and from Muhammad V University.

MINISTER SCORES FOREIGN INTERVENTION IN AFRICA

JN111737Y Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1715 GMT 11 Jul 78 JN

[Text] Khartoum, 11 July--In a statement to SUNA, M'hamed Boucetta, Moroccan minister of state, has reaffirmed his country's strong opposition to any foreign intervention in Africa. He said that foreign interventions in any form, whether militarily or by arms supplies, are not in the interests of Africa because the first victim will be the African peoples themselves.

The Moroccan minister, who is representing his country at the meetings of the OAU council being held in Khartoum, said that it is necessary to give some cautious thinking to the idea of forming an African peace force. This idea is being discussed in the conference lobbies. Boucetta said that the purpose of forming such a force is to safeguard the security of the African states which are concerned with liberating their territories still under colonialism. He pointed out that the OAU Charter contains guarantees which insure the protection of any African state whose sovereignty and integrity are threatened.

PRIME MINISTER INTERVIEWED ON TIES WITH USSR

LD082256Y Rabat MAP in French 1430 GMT 8 Jul 78 LD

[Summary] "The Moroccan Prime Minister Ahmed Osman granted an interview to the German paper RHEINISCHER MERKUR in which he spoke about Morocco's experience in democracy, the movement of independents, Moroccan-German and Moroccan-Soviet relations."

One of the questions put to him concerned the possibilities for German investors in long-term major projects which, he said, had greatly improved over recent years, but economic cooperation between the two countries could be further strengthened still. The Moroccan economy could allow German industry to be more active in Morocco.

"Question: Morocco is considered to be a moderate country, open to the West. In recent times you have expressed regret that Africa is becoming the centre of East-West divergence. You have also opposed foreign ideological influences. In spite of that, on 10 March 1978 you signed in Moscow four important economic and technical agreements with the USSR which, by virtue of their volume, have been called the contract of the century and which have made Morocco the first economic partner of the USSR in Africa. What does Morocco expect from its new 'Ostpolitik'? Does this 30-year agreement not give the USSR the means (?for exerting) pressure on the foreign policy that Morocco will pursue?

"Answer: Moroccan-Soviet economic cooperation has lately assumed new dimensions, especially in the spheres of fishing and of phosphates. There are, thus, grounds for expecting a qualitative and quantitative reinforcement of the volume of our exchanges."

The USSR is granting Morocco a refundable credit in phosphates over 30 years to assist in the exploitation of the Meskala deposits. The agreement in question has to be placed in a broader context, that of world phosphate economy. Within this context it can be seen that the agreement provides the USSR with guaranteed supplies of the phosphates so necessary for its agricultural development, while it enables Morocco to increase its share in the world market of phosphates to a degree more in line with its reserves, and thus to assist its industry.

"Such an agreement, perfectly balanced, could not be used by one of the two partners with a view to exerting some kind of pressure on the other. And this for the simple reason that each of the two partners has a vital interest in it; neither of the two partners would gain anything by denouncing it, but both would lose much by doing so. This agreement constitutes, without any doubt, the perfect model of an agreement on economic and technical cooperation made between two countries on the basis of respect for sovereignty, of mutual interest and of equality of rights, even though they are states with different political systems, of which the one is a superpower and the other a country of the Third World." It is an innovation which is certainly destined to become generalized."

SUDAN

AIRPORT TO BE CLOSED TO NORMAL TRAFFIC DURING SUMMIT

JN121840Y Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1815 GMT 12 Jul 78 JN

[Text] Khartoum, 12 July--It was announced here today that Khartoum's airport will be closed to international and domestic air traffic from midnight on 16 July to 2000 on 18 July to receive the African heads of state attending the 15th African Summit Conference, which will begin on Tuesday. The airport will be opened for normal traffic on 19 and 20 July but will be closed again on 21 and 22 July when the African heads of state leave.

NUMAYRI MESSAGE TO BE CONVEYED TO AL-ASAD, BOUMEDIENE

JN121916Y Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1855 GMT 12 Jul 78 JN

[Text] Khartoum, 12 July--In the coming 2 days, Dr Baha ad-Din Muhammad Idris, minister of presidential affairs, will convey messages from President Numayri to Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad and Algerian President Houari Boumediene. The messages deal with President Numayri's missions as chairman of the Arab Solidarity Committee.

NUMAYRI DISCUSSES COORDINATION WITH EGYPTIAN MINISTER

JN121547Y Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1430 GMT 12 Jul 78 JN

[Text] Khartoum, 12 July--President Numayri received Dr Butrus Ghali, the Egyptian minister of state for foreign affairs, today in the presence of Baha' ad-Din Muhammad Idris, the minister of presidential affairs in Sudan, and Sa'd al-Fatatri, the Egyptian ambassador in Khartoum.

Later, Dr Ghali said that the discussion during this meeting dealt with bilateral relations between the two countries and the efforts to consolidate the coordination between them not only in the economic, social and cultural fields, but also on the diplomatic level in pursuing the policy of nonalinement internationally, consolidating African integration, and strengthening Arab solidarity and Arab-African cooperation.

SUDANESE, LIBYAN OFFICIALS DISCUSS RELATIONS

JN121628Y Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1610 GMT 12 Jul 78 JN

[Text] Khartoum, 12 July--First Vice President Abu al-Qasim Muhammad Ibrahim has discussed with Dr 'Ali 'Abd as-Salam at-Turayki, the Libyan secretary of foreign affairs, the possibility of the exchange of visits and direct contacts between the political leaderships in the two friendly countries. The discussion, which took place during a courtesy call here today attended by the ambassador of the Libyan Jamahiriyah in Khartoum, also dealt with bilateral relations between the two countries and the means of strengthening them.

TUNISIA

FOREIGN MINISTER FITOURI ARRIVES IN KHARTOUM

LD111957Y Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 11 Jul 78 LD

[Text] Foreign Minister Fitouri arrived in Khartoum today to represent the president at the OAU summit conference, due to begin on 18 July, and to follow the work of the OAU foreign ministers' council now meeting in Khartoum.

L'ACTION DISCUSSES FOREIGN INTERVENTION IN AFRICA

LD101021Y Tunis L'ACTION in French 4 Jul 78 p 1 LD

[Abdelhay Sghaier editorial: "Friends and Conquistadors"]

[Text] With only a few days to go before the OAU summit, African states are still widely divided. Africa has become the scene of bitter greed and serious foreign intervention; and the situation in the Arab world is no better. We have had some 30 years of Arab-Israeli war, the Palestinian problem has become the problem of the century, Arab territory is still occupied, Lebanon is torn and South Yemen has become a second Cuba in the heart of the Arab world.

In Africa the two Shaba affairs have posed with unprecedented brutality the problem of direct foreign interference in the affairs of sovereign, independent states. In the Arab world, the Arab League's examination of the Yemen affair has produced an initial stand in the form of sanctions against Aden following the assassination of President al-Ghashmi. The Arab countries' suspension of diplomatic and economic relations with the South Yemen Marxist-Leninist regime is probably revealing in that it is an initial step toward a more definite split between those who for various reasons--some ideological--pave the way for foreign intervention and those who are still firmly attached to the principle of national independence and Arab solidarity regardless of different political regimes.

Arab and African countries are coveted for their vast raw material and energy resources and are confronted with similar situations which show that certain powers totally disregard law and morality in applying their imperialist strategies of penetration and domination.

We must admit that for a long time now certain regimes, which only came to power by military coups, have been paving the way for foreign intervention in Africa and the Arab world. Since they are not backed by popular support, these regimes turned to foreign forces for support and these forces have applied the rule of gradual penetration, turning these countries into their own preserves, bastions or even bases. This disease has somehow spread to an extremely important strategic region of the Arab world. Given this situation, we know that this disease could last a long time and even spread like gangrene unless there is an upsurge of national awareness to save the threatened independence of these countries. But the people behind this penetration have made the mistake of not reckoning with the people's love of freedom and dignity. In an independent country free citizens cannot fail in their duty to unite to put an end to supremacy and foreign manipulations and countermanipulations. There is always a time when the domination of "protectors" weighs heavily on peoples' consciences and produces a liberating revolt. Satellite governments always fall sooner or later. Doubtful alliances cannot survive the awakening of the masses.

In the present international context the world is divided between the superpowers. If the necesarily unstable balance which this produces is broken, dire catastrophes ensue. At all events, countries which lend themselves as satellites to attempts to destabilize the situation are exposing themselves to very serious dangers. It is not surprising that certain countries have become trouble spots. But these areas of unhealthy competition between the great powers fighting through the intermediary of allies will trouble the consciences of those who claim to fight for peace, the emancipation of peoples and dignity. When these peoples are brutally awakened to the truth, they will sweep away not only myths but conquistadors disguised as friends.

WESTERN SAHARA

POLISARIO ANNOUNCES TEMPORARY CEASE-FIRE IN MAURITANIA

LD130936Y Algiers APS in French 0600 GMT 13 Jul 78 LD

[Text] Khartoum--Bashir Mustafa as-Sayyid, the deputy secretary general of the POLISARIO Front, has announced in a statement to news agencies that, following the recent events in Mauritania, orders were issued to the Saharan People's Liberation Army to temporarily halt military operations inside Mauritania. Bashir Mustafa added that this decision is an expression of good intentions and the desire not to increase tension. The assistant secretary general of the POLISARIO Front stressed that this is an opportunity for the new Mauritanian leaders to review the criminal stance of the overthrown president, particularly since this is the only way to correct the course in Mauritania onto a genuine path.

Bashir Mustafa as-Sayyid went on to say that the war of expansion against the Saharan people is the cause of all problems in our region, and that the Saharan, Mauritanian and Moroccan peoples have experienced afflictions owing to the criminal and tyrannical consequences of the war. He said that the correction of the path being carried out in Mauritania indicates that peoples cannot remain subdued forever and pay the price for the obstinacy of the officials who are hostile to the homeland.

Bashir Mustafa emphasized: We are certain that a more serious situation prevails in Morocco and that it is not impossible for the Moroccan patriots to succeed.

Following the declaration by the POLISARIO Front to temporarily cease their fire in Mauritania, Mohamed Cheikhna Ould Lakhda, the new Mauritanian foreign minister, made a statement to AFP. Referring to the POLISARIO Front's decision to temporarily halt military operations in Mauritania, he said he is prepared to carefully discuss the dimensions of the decision of the POLISARIO Front. He stressed: We never wanted war, and we are prepared to study any peace initiative irrespective of its origin. The new Mauritanian foreign minister went on to say that the decision of the POLISARIO Front to temporarily halt its military operations in Mauritania will be a topic of discussion by the Military Committee for National Recovery as well as by the new government. Following this, he added, we will issue our official reply.

For his part, Ismail Ould Ammar, managing director of the Mauritanian national industrial and mining company, said that the Saharan leaders have made a decision of great importance and that it is cause for satisfaction and points in the direction of peace.

POLISARIO URGES OAU TO RENDER JUSTICE TO SAHARANS

LD111520Y Algiers APS in French 0900 GMT 11 Jul 78 LD

[Text] Algiers--In a letter addressed to the African heads of state who are to meet in Khartoum, the POLISARIO Front has appealed to them to take "an urgent decision to render justice to the people and to put an end to a situation whose grave consequences are threatening the whole of the African Continent."

The appeal says that "the gravity of the situation and the intensification of the war in the Sahara calls more than ever for OAU intervention" and that the "successive postponements of a decision on this question have led to an increasingly serious deterioration of peace and security in the north-west region of Africa and are encouraging the intervention of a power outside Africa acting at times through the Moroccan and Mauritanian governments and at times directly with its own army."

Having violently denounced the intervention of the French Army against the Saharan people, the letter stresses that for France the matter is nothing less than "to return to a policy of colonial reconquest and to intervene militarily everywhere in Africa that its economic ambitions are challenged."

WEIZMAN LEAVES FOR SALZBURG MEETING WITH AS-SADAT, AL-JAMASI

TA130919Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0900 GMT 13 Jul 78 TA

[Text] Defense Minister 'Ezer Weizman and his Egyptian counterpart. General al-Jamasi, are now on their way to Salzburg in Austria. Our military correspondent Roni Dani'el reports that the defense minister is accompanied by his adjutant and by the head of the planning division in the General Staff, Maj Gen Avraham Tamir.

This will be the sixth meeting between the two ministers, and the first since Weizman visited Cairo 4 months ago. It is possible that the defense minister will not return to Israel today and he will possibly meet with his counterpart Al-Jamasi several times.

Our correspondent remarks that last night, after Al-Jamasi's cable of invitation was received, the prime minister summoned a small number of cabinet members to a meeting to discuss the subjects that will be raised at the meetings 'Ezer Weizman will hold. The meeting was meant to be secret and circles at the Defense Ministry expressed dismay at the fact that it was leaked out.

Correspondents point out that 'Ezer Weizman's meeting President as-Sadat and with General al-Jamasi is taking place 4 days before the opening of the London parley, in which the foreign ministers of Israel and the United States are taking part.

POST: TALKS WITH EGYPT IN AL 'ARISH AFTER LONDON PARLEY

TA130730Y Jerusalem POST in English 13 Jul 78 p 1 TA

[By Anan Safadi, POST Mideast affairs editor]

[Excerpts] Israel and Egypt have agreed that next week's meeting between their foreign ministers in London will be an overture to protracted peace negotiations to be held in Al 'Arish, in northern Sinai.

The date of the Al 'Arish talks will be set at the two-day London parley scheduled to open next Tuesday. Both the London and Al 'Arish conferences will be attended by Secretary of State Cyrus Vance.

The agreement to continue talks in Al 'Arish was the result of behind-the-scenes efforts by the United States. It underlined the existence of two diplomacies: public posturing reflecting the uncompromising stances of the two sides, and the private contacts signalling rapprochement over certain issues.

Both the London and Al 'Arish conferences are the result of pressure from the Americans who, unlike the Egyptians and Israelis, are optimistic about the two sides agreeing on some points.

The breakthrough to renewed face-to-face talks came after Egyptian President Anwar as-Sadat responded to American advice that he revive direct negotiations since Egypt is responsible for breaking them off in January. Until then, the Egyptians had specifically refused to meet with Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan. They insisted that Israel first signal a change in its negotiating position.

The Al 'Arish meeting was originally proposed by President Anwar as-Sadat. The Americans favoured the location which is closer to home for the Israel and Egyptian foreign ministers.

DAYAN MEETS WITH KNESSET FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Differs With Alinement MK's

TA121158Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1105 GMT 12 Jul 78 TA

[From the Midday Newsreel]

[Text] Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan this morning interpreted the cabinet position to the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Security Committee in preparation for the London conference. In the course of the meeting sharp differences of opinion were revealed between the foreign minister and the Alinement members of the committee. Our Knesset correspondent, Razi Barqay, reports on the political debate that developed in the committee.

[Barqay--live or recorded] The foreign minister thinks that both sides, Israel and Egypt, will put forward their peace proposals in London, that the distance between them is very great, as is known, and that the U.S. secretary of state will try to find ways for a resumption of the negotiations, among other things, through putting out feelers in the direction of a joint declaration of principles.

The first of the speakers in the argument which developed was the former prime minister, Yizhaq Rabin. Lately, it should be noted, Rabin has gained praise from the foreign minister for his balanced opposition position, as Dayan put it. Well, Rabin emphatically rejected the foreign minister's remarks of last night that the Alinement was undermining the peace negotiations. What must be asked in London, Rabin said, is whether As-Sadat is prepared for a separate agreement with Israel. The presentation of the two programs, the Egyptian and the Israeli, one against the other, will lead to a deadlock and a dead end.

MAFDAL member Zerah Warhaftig asked the foreign minister: Why are you directing so much attention at what happened in Vienna and underplaying what is going to happen in London?

DMC member Shemu'el Toledano said: Practical things must be said about the London conference and we must not be content with clever formulations. We must, Toledano said, go back to the attempts at a common declaration of principles with Egypt.

Yehuda Ben-Me'ir, who is also in the coalition, said that a failure in London will lead to a U.S. peace program, an imposed program. A declaration of principles is the only way to advance the negotiations and will permit putting As-Sadat to the test. In Vienna, at the meeting with Peres, Ben-Me'ir said, there were many positive points and we must look for a way to incorporate the opposition in the political negotiations.

Another speaker, Yosi Sarid of the Alinement, said: It is completely clear why the cabinet is looking with a magnifying glass for a fault which does not exist in the Vienna meeting. After all, Egypt agrees, according to the Vienna document, to an Israeli withdrawal to secure borders and this Egyptian willingness is a catastrophe for anyone who has a policy of not an inch.

The committee members formed the impression that the foreign minister himself was not enthusiastic about renewing the debate around an Egyptian-Israeli declaration of principles and also that the foreign minister does not pin many hopes on what may occur in London.

Bar-Lev on Alinement Position

TA121159Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1105 GMT 12 Jul 78 TA

[From the Midday Newsreel]

[Text] The tension between Alinement representatives and the foreign minister found expression in the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Security Committee following Dayan's severe criticism of the Labor Party last night. The foreign minister claimed that the party was abandoning its principles of territorial compromise and was slowly adopting the positions of the Arabs and the Americans. Dayan quoted, among other things, from remarks made by the secretary of the Labor Party, MK Hayyim Bar-Lev. Our Knesset correspondent, Razi Barqay, heard the following reaction from Mr Bar-Lev. [begin recording]

[Bar-Lev] I regret to say that this is a distortion, and I fear that it is a deliberate one. The Alinement adheres to its position concerning territorial compromise which will guarantee Israel secure and good borders. I did not say that we can be content with changes of hundreds of meters here and there, but I did say that one cannot expect more of the United States than for it to say that nonwithdrawal to the 1967 lines can serve as a basis for beginning a discussion on the issue.

[Barqay] According to what you are saying, Mr Bar-Lev, the Alinement, then, adheres to the principle of territorial compromise?

[Answer] Of course.

[Question] The question is whether As-Sadat accepts this principle?

[Answer] Look, when As-Sadat says that he is not demanding the establishment of a Palestinian state in the West Bank and Judaea and Samaria and that he is prepared for border amendments, I think that is a fair basis for negotiations.

[Question] This cabinet, nevertheless, is an elected cabinet, and here your party is holding negotiations in parallel with the cabinet's negotiations. Likud faction members said yesterday that this was sticking a knife in the cabinet's back.

[Answer] We are not holding any negotiations. The chairman of our party met, in the framework of the Socialist International, with As-Sadat. He did not hold negotiations. He insisted on several things which Israel, all of it, insists on--that is, nonacceptance of the Egyptian program, nonwithdrawal to the 1967 borders....

[Question] Do you not fear that As-Sadat is using you in order to hit at the cabinet?

[Answer] The question here is not one of hitting. I regret to say that I believe that As-Sadat thinks the current cabinet position cannot get this cart out of the mud. This is what As-Sadat thinks; this is what the whole world thinks, from the United States to the Europeans; and this is also my view. As long as the cabinet suffers from the approach of the wholeness of the country, of not handing over parts of Judaea and Samaria to a foreign rule, there is, in my view, no chance of arriving at peace. [end recording]

Dayan Exchange With Rabin

TA121617Y Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1510 GMT 12 Jul 78 TA

[From the Afternoon Newsreel]

[Excerpts] Today, the foreign minister said he feared that the United States and Egypt intended to raise the issue of an Israeli-Egyptian declaration of principles at the London meeting and that he would object to such a proposal. However, the foreign minister elaborated that if in the future the issue of the declaration of principles is raised in another forum and at another time, we will not express objection to discussing it. The minister was speaking at a Knesset Foreign Affairs and Security Committee meeting, and these details were brought by our Knesset correspondent, Moshe Hakohen. [begin recording]

[Hakohen] Yizhaq Rabin from the Alinement stated that a rejection of the Kreisky-Brandt formula will place Israel in a difficult political situation. He called on the foreign minister to try to find out in London if the Egyptians were prepared to adopt that formula as a declaration of principles, and if so, if their other partners--meaning Jordan--do not agree to join negotiations on the basis of that formula, would the Egyptians be prepared to continue the negotiations alone and reach an arrangement with Israel.

At this point the foreign minister intervened and revealed a secret. He said that last night, after having returned home from the Likud faction meeting, a report by MK Shim'on Peres on his meeting with President as-Sadat was waiting for him. Dayan refused to elaborate on the report, but said that in it Peres reports that As-Sadat would under no circumstances agree to a separate arrangement. [end recording]

MIXED RECEPTION OF VIENNA DOCUMENT

TA121219Y Tel Aviv HA'AREZ in Hebrew 12 Jul 78 p 1 TA

[By HA'AREZ political correspondent]

[Text] MK Abba Eban actually is behind the drafting of the "Vienna document" published the day before yesterday, which reflects a relatively amenable approach vis-a-vis Israel on the part of the Socialist International.

It was learned yesterday that prior to leaving for his meeting with Kreisky, Brandt and As-Sadat in Vienna, MK Shim'on Peres contacted Abba Eban and asked him to draw up a draft declaration on the issues still pending between Israel and Egypt, which he would then present to Kreisky and Brandt. Eban drew up a formula which was accepted by these two leaders in Vienna.

The Kreisky-Brandt document, which turned into a virtual declaration of principles parallel to the declaration under discussion between the governments of Israel and Egypt, was received in Jerusalem with mixed feelings. Official sources refused to comment on it, but unofficially assessments were heard yesterday to the effect that the declaration is more moderate than the declaration of the Nine, even though the Vienna document also included some tough terms from Israel's viewpoint, such as: "solution of the Palestinian problem 'in all its aspects'..." or granting the representatives of "the Palestinians" (as a people living in various states, not only the Palestinians residing in the territories)...the right to participate in determining their future.

There is considerable resentment in government circles at Peres' move. These circles assert that a situation has now been created that is contradictory to regular state procedure: Not only is the leader of the opposition holding meetings with As-Sadat, he has even initiated a declaration of principles parallel to what the government is proposing. There were also some hints of reservations on the part of Eban's close associates with regard to the Peres-As-Sadat meeting and with the tying-in of the publication of the Vienna document at this meeting.

Eban stressed last night that in his draft he had tried to effect a drawing closer of the International's official approach to the stand taken by Israel. His associates noted that this did not mean that Eban gave his blessing to the presentation of the document as a product of the Peres-As-Sadat talks.

Eban Comment

TA121323Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1200 GMT 12 Jul 78 TA

[Text] The Vienna document issued by Kreisky and Brandt at the Socialist International following the As-Sadat-Peres talks has raised controversy in Israel. The draft is based largely on an Israel Labor Party working paper drawn up by Peres and former Foreign Minister Abba Eban. Reporter Leslie (Sutter) asked Eban whether he thought the document would facilitate the negotiating process. [begin recording]

[Eban] Yes. It is based largely upon the Aswan declaration of last January, and my party thought that the Aswan declaration was a good basis for negotiation. How much more, then, should we approve of a document which is Aswan plus four improvements. The fourth and, in my opinion, most important contribution and improvement is the specific statement that the final peace boundary must be negotiated and agreed and determined by the parties themselves. This excludes the idea, in my view, of them going back to the line of 4 June 1967.

[Question] You referred just now to the Palestinians [as heard]. The document talks about solving the Palestinian problem in all its aspects through negotiations with representatives of the Palestinian people. This, the foreign minister says, is accepting an American-Egyptian position which would lead to a Palestinian state.

[Answer] This is quite wrong. The general interpretation in Israel and in the world of the Vienna document has been one of surprised relief that Kreisky and Brandt have moved away from the idea of a Palestinian state.

[Question] So how is it, Mr Eban, that Labor is presenting the document as the best ever achieved for Israel in a European forum of the type that [word indistinct] and the prime minister is presenting it as a virtual sellout?

[Answer] I do not understand the emotional reaction of Dayan at all, because he must know as well as I do that in all our relations with Europe we have had hanging around our necks the declaration made in November 1973 without consultation with Israel under the impact of the oil embargo. We have not been able to move Europe away from that. Now the Socialist International is not the whole of Europe but it is a very large part of Europe, and if the chairman of the Socialist International and the chairman of the Middle Eastern committee have now accepted a document infinitely better than the November 1973 document, how can that be a bad development?

I will go on even further: How can you possibly compare the positive element of the Vienna document with the somewhat vague and implicit recognition that 242 gives to some of our claims? If you put those documents one against the other, I would accept the Vienna document in place of 242 any day of the week and so would any Israeli in his senses.

[Question] As you said before, the main thrust of the Vienna document seems to be toward a settlement based on territorial compromise. This is something that the Begin government does not accept and that President as-Sadat does not seem to accept. Is it not merely an academic exercise?

[Answer] I do not believe that one can honestly say that As-Sadat has rejected the document. I do not say he has accepted it. He might find it very hard to move away from his extreme peace proposals toward the Vienna document, simply in return for a movement by Peres, because, with all respect to Peres and myself and all of us, we do not really determine anything. If the Israeli Government could be persuaded to move away from its original proposals toward something like the Vienna document, it might be possible to get a parallel movement from President as-Sadat.

[Question] As you say, this document was achieved by the Labor Party. The government is particularly critical of the Labor Party for even entering into this type of negotiation which, they say, undercuts government efforts and seems to be playing into As-Sadat's hands, as far as the negotiating process....

[Answer] My understanding is that when Begin gave his acquiescence to Peres' visit, he knew fairly well what views Peres would put forward. Peres can only put forward his own views. I believe that the pluralism of Israeli political life is very well understood and if the choice is having no contact with the determining personality in the Arab world and having contact with an opposition leader, the second is the better alternative. [end recording]

Rabin Approval

TA121834Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1705 GMT 12 Jul 78 TA

[From the Evening Newsreel]

[Text] The cabinet's peace plan and the six-point Egyptian plan are two starting points that cannot be bridged. The London meeting, in which an attempt will be made to bridge the unbridgeable, is a waste of time. These things were said an hour ago by Mr Yizhaq Rabin at a political review he gave to the Labor Party Executive in the Jerusalem region. Our correspondent heard his speech. [begin recording]

[Unidentified correspondent] A large part of Rabin's speech was devoted to Israel's peace plan.

[Rabin] Anyone who thought that such a political plan could serve as a basis for negotiations in my opinion is neither living in the Middle Eastern reality nor trying to find any way to exhaust the opportunities that began with the visit of Egypt's president.

[Unidentified correspondent] It appears that in Egypt the conditions for a serious peace have been created, and now Israel can and must examine this. Israel must propose negotiations with Egypt on the basis of the Kreisky-Brandt declaration; otherwise it would miss a great opportunity. An Egyptian refusal would make it clear to the world that Israel did everything it could to achieve peace. If peace itself is not achieved, at least Israel's status in the world would improve.

Rabin thinks that the Kreisky-Brandt Vienna formula is much better than the Aswan formula, especially with regard to the future of the Palestinians.

[Rabin] In my opinion, it is the best formulation that has ever been made by others than ourselves. If we had to formulate it on our own, I am convinced we would have found a better formula. And if I should add that this morning the radio carried a report saying that Egypt blessed this announcement [Vienna document], I think that there is here a substantial improvement on the Aswan formula and on what Carter said during his talk with Begin in March or on what the United States has so far proposed--certainly on what it has said publicly--in terms of the Palestinian issue. [end recording]

BRANDT SAYS AS-SADAT AGREES WITH PRINCIPLES OF VIENNA FORMULA

TA121717Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 12 Jul 78 TA

[Text] The president of the Socialist International, Willy Brandt, says he has grounds to assume that Egyptian President Anwar as-Sadat agrees with the principles of the Vienna document. He added that As-Sadat and Shim'on Peres were informed of the process toward consolidating the document. Brandt said this in a telephone conversation with the heads of the 'Peace Now' movement.

[Austrian] Chancellor Kreisky told them that Egypt's president had clearly told him that he agreed with the principles of the Vienna document.

'AL HAMISHMAR ON EARLIER AS-SADAT SIX-POINT PLAN

TA121130Y Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 12 Jul 78 p 1 TA

[By Refa'el Barqan]

[Text] A moderate six-point plan by President as-Sadat was communicated to Israel as early as last February-March, but its existence and details of it were kept secret from the public by the cabinet, which demanded of the Egyptian president an official and written plan. That demand pushed As-Sadat to the extreme six-point plan that he submitted to Vice President Mondale.

Details of the secret plan have been brought to my knowledge by European socialist elements. They are convinced that the Kreisky-Brandt document which was published in Vienna on Monday was based on that plan, and that it received the agreement of As-Sadat and Peres, as well as U.S. blessings.

As-Sadat's moderate six-point plan was submitted to Shim'on Peres orally as far back as on 11 February during their previous meeting in Salzburg, and on his return Mr Peres reported on it to the prime minister. Naturally, one could hardly imagine that the plan was not also submitted to Defense Minister 'Ezer Weizman when he met with As-Sadat in Cairo on 31 March. The plan was submitted to the Americans and to various socialist elements as well.

The six points of the moderate plan, which deal with solutions to the West Bank and the Gaza Strip issues, specify:

--Nonagreement to Israeli sovereignty in the West Bank.

--The West Bank will be relinked to Jordan--no Palestinian state will be established in it and the PLO will not be their [presumably the Palestinians'] spokesman.

--In order to satisfy Israel's pressing security needs, very slight border modifications are possible (Dayan described them as "Latrun-type modifications").

--Agreement to an Israeli military presence at strategic points in the West Bank as well as along the River Jordan ("footholds") even beyond the 5-year transition period.

--As for the settlements, As-Sadat demanded their removal from the held territories, but after he was told of the mystical Israeli approach to the settlements, he agreed to a softer formulation, according to which the future of the settlements would be determined in negotiations.

The Begin-Dayan cabinet demanded an official, written document, but As-Sadat was unable to submit such a minimal plan before the opening of the negotiations. He demanded an answer to his two publicly asked questions. The Israeli Government gave, in fact, a negative reply and insisted in its demand for a written Egyptian document. The only possible outcome was that As-Sadat submitted to Mondale an extreme six-point plan--which is unacceptable.

Over this unacceptable plan the two parties are now going to the "London parley." Either the Israeli cabinet knows that As-Sadat is ready for a more far-reaching compromise, or, which is worse, it wants to gain time.

Jerusalem Sources' Denial

TA121322Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0200 GMT 12 Jul 78 TA

[Text] Official sources in Jerusalem this morning denied the front-page report in the leftwing daily 'AL HAMISHMAR according to which the government has been ignoring secret clauses in President as-Sadat's peace proposals. The report claimed that in these the Egyptian leader had displayed considerable moderation on such questions as Palestinian self-determination, a military presence in the West Bank and the future of Israeli settlements there.

POLL SHOWS PUBLIC SUPPORTS KEEPING WEST BANK

TA121305Y Tel Aviv HA'AREZ in Hebrew 12 Jul 78 p 2 TA

[Text] A decisive majority of the Israeli public is of the opinion that security necessitates retention of the West Bank, even if this means that no peace agreement is reached. This was found in a countrywide public opinion poll held at the PORI [Public Opinion Research, Israel] Institute at the behest of HA'AREZ.

The pollsters put before 1,225 men and women of a representative cross-section two conflicting views about the importance of the territories for Israel's security.

One opinion stated that "Israel's only security is to retain most of the West Bank, even if this means that there will be no peace agreement," while the contradictory opinion stated that "in view of the modern means of warfare the territories have no security importance and Israel would therefore be more secure if it conceded most of the West Bank areas in return for a final peace treaty."

Of those asked, 60.7 percent supported the first view, that is, retention of the West Bank as vital to Israel's security; as against 18.2 percent who felt that a conclusive peace treaty would be preferred to retention of the West Bank, which is not essential to Israel's security.

A sizeable group--21.1 percent of thos polled--were unable to say which opinion they favored.

KNESSET COMMITTEE DISCUSSES ARAB TAKEOVER OF LAND

TA121814Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 12 Jul 78 TA

[Text] The Knesset Economic Committee today discussed cases in which Beduins have taken control over lands and the increasing number of cases in which Arabs are buying lands in Jewish settlements. The issue was raised by Alinement MK 'Amos Hadar. He demanded national action to prevent the transfer of large areas of agricultural lands into Arab hands, either illegally or under the guise of false partnerships.

Agriculture Minister Ari'el Sharon said that the Jews are at a disadvantage in the fight over lands in Israel. Reserve Major General (Yofe) said that the Beduins were settling within IDF firing ranges and that it is difficult to remove them.

Northern District Commissioner Yisra'el Kenig said that the police forces are sometimes afraid of removing Beduins and that he knew police officers who are afraid of going to those places. He said that more and more Arabs were settling in the Jewish settlements and that in Moshav Yashresh, for example, there are 10 Beduin children and 7 Jewish children in the first grade.

OFFICIAL SAYS AN-NABI SALIH LANDS BELONG TO GOVERNMENT

TA121954Y Jerusalem Domestic Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 12 Jul 78 TA

[Text] The coordinator of activities in the territories, Maj Gen Avraham Orly, says that the territory intended for settlement near An-Nabi Salih in Samaria is government property and that there was therefore no need whatsoever to issue a military expropriation order on it. Major General Orly makes this claim in a written declaration which he submitted to the High Court of Appeal in reply to the appeal made by the inhabitants of the village of An-Nabi Salih against the seizure of the territory.

Major General Orly remarks that as a result of an investigation, he ordered the commander of the area to repeal the expropriation decree because the territory is under his administration in any case.

The government legal adviser, Prof Aharon Baraq, also expressed his opinion to the effect that it can almost certainly be concluded that in the area concerned there is no private cultivation of lands and no private ownership.

HAZOFE REVIEWS RELATIONS WITH INHABITANTS OF TERRITORIES

TA121446Y Tel Aviv HAZOFE in Hebrew 12 Jul 78 p 1 TA

[Text] About 25 percent of the 200,000 refugees in the Gaza Strip have so far been evacuated from their camps, rehabilitated and housed in five new housing compounds within the framework of restorations of existing buildings. This was reported yesterday by the coordinator of activities in the territories, Maj Gen Avraham Orly, during a tour of Judaea, Samaria and the Gaza Strip by the committee of Israel's press editors-in-chief.

Major General Orly said that today, unlike in the past, the refugees are cooperating and striving to get out of the camps and receive new housing. The number of new housing compounds could be increased if larger budgets were available to the military administration.

The editors were told that construction of housing quarters for residents of refugee camps in Judaea and Samaria would be started next year, as the planned start of the project this year had to be postponed due to budgetary difficulties.

Large-scale rehabilitation projects have been undertaken for the Beduins who were evacuated from the Rafah Approaches within the framework of actions that were meant to seal off the Gaza Strip from the Sinai Peninsula. Among other things, a Beduin village was established at (Dahaniyyah) as one of the main projects in the rehabilitation activities. One hundred families have already been housed in the village, and they received housing facilities that are expandable. Each family also received 5 dunams of land on which they will grow vegetables under irrigation. The village is designed for 220 families; a mosque, a school and a medical clinic have already been constructed there, and a canal system and power lines have been laid.

About 1 million people crossed into Israel via the Allenby and Adam Bridges last year, 70,000 of them tourists. The number of tourists has considerably increased this year, and so far 55,000 tourists have already crossed into Israel. At the Allenby Bridge a special new tourist terminal is being completed, construction of which will cost 5 million Israeli pounds. The security checks are very painstaking, but thanks to the new terminal and to other means of efficiency, the procedure has been considerably shortened. The crossing of an inhabitant from Jordan to Israel now takes only 3 hours, as compared to 6 hours previously.

Exports via the two bridges amounted to 885 million Israeli pounds last year.

Major General Orly pointed out that very good relations exist between the military government and the local administration and population in the Gaza Strip, as well as in Judaea and Samaria.

Major General Orly took to task those who demand a "strong hand" in the territories, and said it was the policy of the military government to make a definite distinction between active terrorists and the local population, and that the military administration is not adopting a policy of collective punishment.

Major General Orly was accompanied by the commander of Judaea and Samaria, Brig Gen Binyamin Ben Eli'ezer, and by the Gaza District commander, Brig Gen Yosel Kastel, as well as by their staff officers.

PLO ATTEMPTS TO CONTROL CITRUS EXPORT FROM GAZA

TA122003Y Jerusalem Domestic Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 12 Jul 78 TA

[Text] Recently, the PLO has been making an effort to take control over the supervision of citrus exports from the Gaza Strip. Our correspondent on Arab affairs says that delegations of citrus growers from Gaza have been faced with PLO demands to coordinate their deals with its representatives as well as to include PLO representatives in the negotiations and perhaps even in the profits. It seems that the reference is mainly to sales of citrus fruit to East European countries and to Arab countries.

Gaza Mayor Rashad ash-Shawwa met several PLO leaders in Beirut on this matter.

Our correspondent says that this affair is in line with instructions the PLO has issued to its supporters in Judaea and Samaria to do their best to gain control over civilian institutions, especially trade unions. The PLO is interested in setting up new trade unions in the territories and in gaining leadership of existing trade unions, even at the expense of overt competition with the Communist Party activists who at present are the leaders in this area.

DAVAR: WEIZMAN GAINS POPULARITY IN WEST BANK

TA070904Y Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 7 Jul 78 p 14 TA

[Dani Rubinstein commentary: "'Ezer Weizman the 'Public's Favorite' in the Territories"]

[Text] Defense Minister 'Ezer Weizman has gradually become the favorite of the Arab public in the administered territories. For more than 11 years it was impossible to find anyone among the Arab population in the West Bank or the Gaza Strip who would say anything complimentary in public about an Israeli leader and it was impossible to find anything in the East Jerusalem press with a favorable comment about a minister in the Israeli cabinet. 'Ezer Weizman has in some ways broken these barriers. Over the last few months it has been possible to hear from Bassam ash-Shak'a, the mayor of Nabulus; Karim Khalaf, the mayor of Ramallah; and Fahd Qawasmi, the mayor of Hebron, some things to Weizman's credit. And in the Arab papers, particularly in AL-QUDS, there have been a few positive articles and comments about him and his policy. The legitimization of the praises for Weizman was apparently given by the president of Egypt, Anwar as-Sadat, "who has in his heart a soft spot for the Israeli defense minister," as this was defined not long ago by Egyptian Minister of War al-Jamasi.

'Ezer Weizman has changed the policy in the territories completely in several spheres. During his year in office, not only have there been no houses blown up belonging to the families of terrorists, but in Nabulus Weizman promised to examine sympathetically the granting of permission to families whose homes were destroyed to come back and rebuild them. Not only have there been no expulsions at all of public figures across the borders on the grounds of incitement, but recently the return of two of the most well-known people expelled was permitted: Dr (Natsha) and ('Abd al-Hay 'Arafa) from Hebron. In Weizman's "new era" in the territories there have been practically no administrative arrests, and several of the oldest of the administrative detainees have been released from prison.

There has been almost no sequestering of lands, and in addition the military government has recently responded in the positive to a series of requests which were in the past rejected or held up by the Israeli authorities. For example: the purchase of the generators in Nabulus, the extension of municipal powers into new spheres, the authorization of development projects and the transfer of funds, visits to prisoners in jail and so on. All these gained a great deal of renown in the territories and led to a more comfortable atmosphere in the relations between the military government and the population.

The most outstanding event in the territories over recent months, which attracted attention to the Israeli minister of defense, was the dismissal of the commander of Judaea and Samaria against the background of teargas grenades thrown into closed classrooms in Bayt Jala. Together with this, when visiting the West Bank 'Ezer Weizman is in the habit of emphasizing his sensitivity to the security matter, and after the destructive explosion inside the tourist bus in Nabulus severe restrictions were placed on the town, just as had been done in the past.

Recently Weizman was again praised for granting a request on the matter of extending the stay here of professors at Bi'r Zayt college and for canceling the punishments imposed following the arrests of the mayor of Bayt Jala and his colleagues. Even the dismissal of the Bayt Jala mayor from his post (in accordance with the law pertaining to those who had committed a crime) and even the publication of the Defense Ministry's settlement program calling for six urban centers in the West Bank did not change the attitude of "sympathy" for Weizman. The term "sympathy" in this context is relative, of course, and it should be placed against statements and evaluations which have been heard and are being heard in the administered territories about all the Israeli leaders. In contrast to the previous ministers of defense (Dayan and Peres) and in contrast to the other prime ministers and Israeli figures, there is no doubt that a different, more positive approach is being crystallized toward Weizman.

'Ezer Weizman's policy in the administered territories is the fulfillment of principles determined at the beginning of Israeli rule: nonintervention, a minimum of friction with Israeli authorities and, with all of this, the least possible actions of "local punishment", which were prevalent in previous years.

It is not easy to carry out this policy, and within the cabinet people are lying in wait for Weizman in order to charge that his policy of liberalization and of the soft hand is causing the Arab public to "raise its head" (a phrase much loved in certain circles). A few months ago Weizman visited the mayor of Ramallah, who is known for his statements in favor of the PLO, after the latter had been boycotted by the military government for a long time. A few hours after the visit, 'Abd an-Nur Janhu was murdered by terrorists who accused him of cooperating with Israel. At once there were people in the military government, the cabinet and Weizman's party who claimed that the murder was committed because Weizman, on his visit to the mayor, had given a sort of legitimization and even encouragement to those who carried out the murder.

After Weizman gave the Nabulus municipality permission to buy generators, the minister of energy and infrastructure hurried to Begin to express surprise at this and there was a leak to the press from circles close to the minister of agriculture to the effect that the prime minister had pointed out to the defense minister that permission to buy the generators and to allow the return of those who had been expelled were not matters under his authority, but under that of the Ministerial Committee for Security Affairs. Among the leaders who are working hard to find faults in the minister of defence and his policy are Minister Yig'al Horowitz, who is doing so with much greater devotion than the Herut movement's guardians of the walls.

At the head of those laying mines for 'Ezer Weizman is Minister of Agriculture Ari'el Sharon, whose complex wiliness has become famous among the cabinet ministers. Ever since the affair of the Gush Emunim settlements nearly a year ago, Sharon has been trying in his usual way to carry out his will in the territories and to undermine Weizman's status and authority. We recall the affairs of the Rafah Approaches and the tractor work in An-Nabi Salih, and these are only a few examples. The Gush Emunim people say that Arik Sharon is their only friend in the cabinet, and that he is helping them all along the way with strategems and every other kind of aid, while they come up against difficulties in their contacts with all the other ministers, including the prime minister.

Arik Sharon scornfully dismissed the defense minister's six urban centers program and only recently emphatically opposed allowing the military government to pardon the mayor of Bayt Jala and his colleagues. Sharon demanded and beseeched that they be put in jail as the court had determined. One can see Arik Sharon's hand, too, behind the affair concerning the custodian of sequestered property--despite his denials. After all, the man who gave the order on this matter was the new general staff officer, who works as a subordinate of the minister of agriculture and whom he has known for many years.

Those who speak evil behind the defence minister's back are hinting that the latest terror actions by terrorists from the territories (who caused a particularly large number of casualties in Jerusalem) are the direct results of 'Ezer Weizman's policy of "appeasement." In view of this, the Ministry of Defense is seeking to stress that the number of demonstrations and breaches of the peace in the territories has been very low over the last year. The number of extremist statements, too, by leaders of the Arab public in the territories has decreased appreciably. Those close to the defense minister do not like it when reference is made to 'Ezer Weizman's popularity among the Arabs or--and the matters are, of course, connected--in the camp of the doves in Israel. In the vocabulary of the politicians this popularity is defined as "attracting fire." And indeed, the defense minister attracts strong fire from personal rivals who are jealous, as well as from rivals who oppose his views.

WEIZMAN VISITS MISSILE UNIT 12 JULY

TA121835Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 12 Jul 78 TA

[Text] Today the defense minister visited a ground-to-ground lance missile unit and saw them in operation. He was accompanied by his deputy, by the chief of staff and his deputy and the commander of the artillery corps.

CENTO OFFICIAL BEGINS 7-DAY VISIT TO TEHRAN

LD082314Y Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1500 GMT 8 Jul 78 LD

[Excerpts] Kamuran Gurun, the secretary general of the Central Treaty Organization, CENTO, has come to Tehran for a 7-day visit in Iran in order to hold talks with the Iranian officials about the situation in the region today. He met and held talks with Mr Khal'atbari, our country's foreign minister, at the Foreign Ministry. Taqi Ansari, the VOICE AND PROFILE OF IRAN correspondent has a report on this. In view of the recent changes in the region, informed observers attach especial importance to the CENTO secretary general's talks with our country's foreign minister.

At the end of his 2-hour talks this afternoon with Mr 'Abbas 'Ali Khal'atbari, Mr Gurun said at a brief interview with the VOICE AND PROFILE OF IRAN correspondent: My talks with Mr 'Abbas 'Ali Khal'atbari were very useful. I ought to add that my meeting and talks with your country's foreign minister, in view of his experience, are constructive for me and are especially useful as far as the performance of duties as the CENTO secretary general are concerned. Mr Gurun added: I have traveled to your county in order to be informed of the latest Iranian views, for I need to get informed of these views in my capacity as the CENTO secretary general.

FOREIGN MINISTER RECEIVES NEW AFGHAN AMBASSADOR

LD122130Y Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1900 GMT 12 Jul 78 LD

[Text] Afghanistan's new ambassador at the imperial court met 'Abbas 'Ali Khal'atbari, minister of foreign affairs, today. According to a dispatch from our correspondent, Dr Najib, the new ambassador, during this meeting which took place today at the Foreign Ministry palace, presented copies of his letters of credence to our foreign minister.

BRIEFS

SHAH APPOINTS NEW ENVOYS--On orders from the shah, Mr Fereydun Zand-Fard, Mr Sadeq Sadriyeh and Mr Hushang Amir-Mokri have been appointed new Iranian ambassadors to Iraq, Federal Germany and Poland, respectively. [Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0900 GMT 12 Jul 78 LD]

ROMANIA'S ENVOY REPLACED--Tehran, PANA (PARS News Agency)--Alexandru Boaba left Tehran today after a 7-year mission to Iran. His replacement, Nicola Stafin, is expected to arrive in Tehran in the middle of August. [Tehran PARS in English 0954 GMT 10 Jul 78 LD]

TURKISH AMBASSADOR DEPARTS--Tehran, PANA(PARS News Agency)--Turkish ambassador to the imperial court, Rahmi Gumrukcuoglu, [name and title as received] whose (?mission) is at an end, met Court Minister Amir-Abbas Hoveyda at the Court Ministry today. During the meeting Hoveyda presented Gumrukcuoglu with a photograph of his imperial majesty the shahanshah aryamehr in an inlaid frame in (?recognition) of the Turkish ambassador's services while in Iran. [Text] [Tehran PARS in English 1050 GMT 11 Jul 78 LD]

ENVOYS TO SYRIA, SUDAN--At Sa'dabad Palace today, the shah received Foreign Minister Khal'atbari, who introduced Maj Gen 'Ali Mo'tazez as Iran's new ambassador to Syria and Mr Hashem Hakimi as its new ambassador to Sudan. [Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0900 GMT 5 Jul 78 LD]

BANGLADESH

CONCERN OVER TREATMENT OF BENGALEES IN UK VOICED

BK121616Y Dacca Domestic Service in Bengali 1430 GMT 12 Jul 78 BK

[Text] Bangladesh has expressed its deep concern over the recent acts of violence perpetrated by racist elements against the Bangladesh community in Britain. Foreign Secretary Tabarak Hussain conveyed this concern to the British high commissioner, Mr F.S. Miles, at a meeting in Dacca today.

Meanwhile, the Bangladesh high commissioner in Britain, Mr A.R.S. Doha, has expressed his concern over the lack of security for Bangladesh nationals living in that country. Leading members of the Bangladesh community have also expressed their grave concern over the deteriorating law and order situation in Britain.

DACCA RADIO WELCOMES REFUGEE ACCORD WITH BURMA

BK121354Y Dacca Overseas Service in English 1235 GMT 11 Jul 78 BK

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] Bangladesh and Burma have signed an agreement on the repatriation of the Burmese refugees now sheltered in camps in Bangladesh, thus ending a humanitarian problem.

The leaders of the two sides, after initialing the accord, aptly described it as very satisfactory. The leader of the visiting Burmese delegation, Deputy Foreign Minister U Tin Ohn, observed: I am very happy that I have accomplished my mission. The reaction amply demonstrates that the two sides were eager to find a solution to the problem which is largely humanitarian in nature.

The Bangladesh foreign minister, who left for a trip to Malaysia yesterday, described the agreement as a remarkable event. The problem was indeed of a great magnitude which called for complete understanding and cooperation between Bangladesh and Burma. The agreement has also demonstrated that the two close neighbors--Burma and Bangladesh--want to live in an atmosphere of cordial neighborliness, amity and goodwill.

The Dacca-Rangoon talks have been fruitful and comprehensive. The talks embraced such areas as demarcation of land boundaries and finalization of border ground rules. This, it must be admitted, required improvement on the situation as it has developed over the past couple of months or so. It must be acknowledged that between two friendly neighbors like Burma and Bangladesh [words indistinct] there should not be any problem that cannot be settled amicably and peacefully.

The details of the agreement will be worked out, and the repatriation of the Burmese refugees will commence from late next month. It must also be recalled with gratitude the understanding and cooperation that Bangladesh received from the international community and other friendly countries in dealing with such a gigantic problem. Particular reference must be made of the United Nations secretary general, Dr Kurt Waldheim, and the United Nations high commissioner for refugees for their timely and speedy response to this problem. It is encouraging to find that the Burmese Government appreciated the humanitarian element involved in the problem. This has enabled the expeditious settlement of the problem.

We are happy that temporary tension in the otherwise calm and serene border has been eliminated with the signing of the agreement. The misunderstanding between the two countries is happily over now. The solution of problems through mutual understanding and cooperation has proved that no issue is beyond solution given the goodwill and understanding to solve it.

Bangladesh, on her part, had always insisted on a peaceful solution of this humanitarian problem. Repatriation of the evicted persons and rehabilitation at their respective homes will be a massive operation requiring the energy and resources of both governments. It is expected that the operation will be conducted smoothly and refugees will go back to their homes to resume normal life.

The people of this country share the views expressed by the Burmese deputy foreign minister that the agreement just reached has further (?consolidated) the friendly relation between the two countries, which we hope will continue unruffled, by increasing col- boration, understanding and goodwill by both sides for all times to come. The agreement has strengthened the bonds of friendly relationship between Bangladesh and Burma.

INDIA

CHARAN SINGH WITHDRAWS RESIGNATION FROM JANATA POSTS

BK121556Y Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 12 Jul 78 BK

[Text] Mr Charan Singh has withdrawn his letter of resignation from the Parliamentary Board and the National Executive of the Janata Party. In a letter sent to the party president, Mr Chandra Shekhar, Mr Charan Singh said his letter of 20 April may be treated as withdrawn. He appreciated the spirit in which the National Executive has asked him to continue to be associated with the party bodies. He has also appreciated the warmth of Mr Chandra Shekhar's letter to him forwarding the National Executive's resolution.

SPECIAL COURTS CONSIDERED TO TRY EMERGENCY EXCESSES

BK121602Y Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 12 Jul 78 BK

[Excerpt] The union cabinet is understood to have discussed today the question of setting up special courts for offenses arising out of excesses committed during the emergency. The discussions took place in the light of the notice given by Mr Ram Jethmalani, member of Parliament, to move a bill for the purpose in the coming session of Parliament. It was decided that a recommendation be made to the president to obtain the opinion of the Supreme Court as provided for in the constitution.

TURKISH CULTURAL ACCORD SIGNED; OKCUN GIVES NEWS CONFERENCE

BK121631Y Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 12 Jul 78 BK

[Text] India and Turkey signed a cultural exchange program in New Delhi today. The minister for education, social welfare and culture, Dr P.C. Chunder, signed for India, while the Turkish foreign minister, Prof Gunduz Okcun, signed for his country. The 2 and a half year program covers a wide range of activities in the fields of education, art and culture, films, radio, television, sports and youth activities. It provides for cooperation between the universities and educational institutions of the two countries. Both sides have agreed to set up a joint group of historians and scholars for research and study of their common historical and cultural heritage.

Later addressing a news conference, Professor Okcun said that the relations between his country and India have entered a new era and he hoped that these would progress further. He said his country had already expressed reservations on the long term defense program of NATO, of which it is a member. But for the time being it will not quit the alliance. He also expressed the hope that Turkey's application for entry into the nonalined movement would be taken up at the next meeting of these countries.

STATEMENT ON KARACHI CONFERENCE KASHMIR RESOLUTION ISSUED

BK111624Y Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 11 Jul 78 BK

[Text] Official sources in New Delhi have expressed surprise that a resolution calling for a general plebiscite in Kashmir was passed at the so-called First Asian Islamic Conference in Karachi recently and that some citizens of India should be a party to it. The subject matter of the resolution falls within the domestic jurisdiction of India.

About a dozen persons, including four journalists from India, attended the conference. One of them was reported to have been elected vice president of one of the committees.

Official sources said that the External Affairs Ministry had no knowledge of participation by these people in the conference until they got reports from the Pakistani press about the presence of the so-called Indian delegation at the meeting. A spokesman of the External Affairs Ministry said that information on the subject is being collected.

DELHI HERALD COMMENTS ON UN DISARMAMENT SESSION

BK110205Y Delhi NATIONAL HERALD in English 6 Jul 78 p 5 BK

[Editorial: "Disarmament Commission"]

[Text] The results of the UN General Assembly special session on disarmament have received little notice. The Yugoslav president of the session, Mr Mojsov, has called the agreement on the establishment of a disarmament commission as strengthening of the role of the United Nations on disarmament problems, and the UN secretary general, Dr Waldheim, has called it a "significant move," opening the possibility of participation in disarmament negotiations by all nuclear weapon states. It is hoped that Mr Mojsov and Dr Waldheim are right. The consensus document of the 149 member states required difficult negotiations lasting a week, but wide differences persisted and several nations expressed their reservations. The idea, however, of a disarmament commission to act as deliberative apex body found unanimous acceptance. Until now, France and China have been staying out of disarmament negotiations from all forums, but now both countries have welcomed the idea of a disarmament commission. The disarmament negotiating machinery envisaged by the consensus document seeks to eliminate the domination of the Geneva discussions by the United States and the Soviet Union by throwing open the chairmanship of the committee to all countries on a rotational basis and through other procedural innovations. But it is to be hoped that this will not mean lesser interest in disarmament negotiations by the two most powerful nations which make so much of a difference to disarmament. The consensus document has laid down no priorities for disarmament, as suggested by the Soviet Union. The nonalined nations, on whose initiative the special session was called, are also not fully satisfied with a consensus document which fell short of their expectations. The document has negative and positive parts but reflects no sense of urgency.

The pledge that India would not explode nuclear devices even for peaceful purposes, which Morarji Desai gave, has given rise to opposition in India, and his advice to the Soviet Union and the United States to conclude a comprehensive test ban treaty and reduce nuclear stockpiles leading to their complete elimination has no compelling appeal and the Indian delegation could not push its resolutions on such subjects to the vote.

The Indian delegation has been satisfied with the establishment of a UN deliberating body to discuss disarmament questions. But India holds that the whole world should be declared a nuclear-weapon-free zone and is opposed to Pakistan's proposal for a nuclear-weapon-free zone for Southeast Asia alone. The consensus document has treated the proposal for declaring the Indian Ocean as a zone of peace in a casual manner. The Indian proposal for an immediate moratorium on nuclear weapons testing was rejected, and a comprehensive test ban treaty at Geneva is being hoped for. The disarmament commission by itself, like the old disarmament conferences, may not be able to achieve much if there is too much of dialogue and too little practical action. For any action which can be significant, the Soviet Union and the United States matter most, and this the other nations, including China, should recognise. The disarmament commission may become an indefinite extension of the special session since all member nations are to be represented in it. If it leads to one step after another even it will have served a useful purpose and promoted detente. The paradox of a mutual deterrence leading the nuclear powers to sell surplus nuclear arms to other nations has to be ended first, and, even if there is no assurance as there is from India, the world will continue to be safe if there are not too many trigger-happy nations, small or big, from keeping their fingers on nuclear triggers. But mutual deterrence has permitted local wars.

PAKISTAN

BBC REPORT ON DENYING VISAS TO BURMESE DENIED

BK100856Y Karachi Overseas Service in English 0030 GMT 10 Jul 78 BK

[Text] A Foreign Office spokesman in Islamabad yesterday categorically refuted a BBC report alleging that the Pakistan Government had refused to issue visas to Burmese Moslems for participation in the First Asian Islamic Conference in Karachi. He pointed out that the Asian Islamic Conference was organized by the Rabte al-Allam al-Islami, a nongovernmental organization. Participants were invited by the Rabte authorities and the names of those who accepted the invitations were received from the Rabte.

The Pakistan Government accordingly issued visas to them. He emphasized the fact that no one whose name was given by the Rabte al-Allam al-Islami was refused visas.

AGHA SHAHI RETURNS FROM SAUDI ARABIA VISIT

BK111716Y Karachi Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 11 Jul 78 BK

[Text] The minister of state designate for foreign affairs, Mr Agha Shahi, has returned from Saudi Arabia where he had discussions with the Saudi leaders on matters of mutual interests.

ABBAS CONFESSION IN MURDER CONSPIRACY CASE REPORTED

BK1016132 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 10 Jul 78 BK

[Text] A written statement was read out in the Supreme Court today on behalf of appellant Mian Mohammad Abbas in the Mohammad Ahmed Khan murder case. The statement was read out by the counsel of the appellant, (Mian Kurban Sadiq Ikram). The statement said that he confessed his role in the Ahmed Reza Kasuri murder conspiracy. He said the evidence recorded in the case was substantially correct and pleaded that he did not act of his own free will because he had been forced to become a party in the murder conspiracy by former Federal Security Force Chief Masood Mahmud who intimidated him and threatened him and his family's lives and honor.

Mian Mohammad Abbas said in his statement that he had no personal enmity or (?grudge) against Mr Ahmed Reza Kasuri or his late father, and he became a party in the conspiracy because of Mr Masood Mahmud's threats. Mr Masood Mahmud, in compliance with the orders of Mr Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto, compelled him to become a party to the unholy scheme which resulted in the death of the father of Mr Ahmed Reza Kasuri.

Mian Mohammad Abbas said that, in order to unburden his conscience, he was taking this opportunity to disclose the whole truth to save his soul from perpetual agony. He pleaded that his statement be made part of the record and that he be given mercy.

The chief justice, Mr Justice S. Anwarul Haq, directed that the statement be added to the record and asked the appellant's counsel whether he wanted to contest the case. (Mian Kurban Sadiq Ikram) told the court that he had nothing to say about the merits of the case, although he will present his arguments on the sentence given to his client.

During today's hearing, the question of whether the report of the tribunal, composed of Mr Justice Shafiur Rahman, should be presented in the court also came up for review. The chief justice said in his order that, as agreed by both sides, a photostatic copy of the report should be added to the record and be read as evidence according to the law.

The main defense counsel was continuing his arguments when the court adjourned for the day.

BRIEFS

NARCOTICS SURVEILLANCE IN SRI LANKA--The Narcotics Bureau has contacted Interpol for obtaining data available in regard to drug traffickers who arrive under the guise of bonafide tourists. This follows a number of detections made recently by the Narcotics Bureau and the Crime Detection Bureau where persons who had come to the country as tourists were later found to be members of an international drug syndicate. The police Narcotics Bureau has intensified its surveillance on certain type of tourists arriving in the island. [Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 7 Jul 78 BK]

PAKISTAN-SAUDI INVESTMENT COMPANY--A memorandum of understanding was signed in Islamabad 6 July for the establishment of a Pakistan-Saudi Arabian joint investment company. The company will be set up for making investments in Pakistan for industries. This is another gesture by the Saudi Arabian Government to help accelerate the economic development of Pakistan. [Karachi Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 6 Jul 78 BK]

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